Ecleo wife's father, mother, brother massacred

STORY ON PAGE A16

Taiwanese Romeo weds wrong Pinay

PEKSMAN... I'M THE WIFE!

TAIPEI, Taiwan—A Taiwanese man learned a big lesson: Make sure you check your bride's name before you marry her.

A matchmaker arranged a marriage between Taiwanese construction worker

TAIWANESE/A6

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4 Indons abducted; Abus suspected

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Gunmen in military fatigues abducted on Monday night four Indonesian crewmembers from a tugboat off Basilan, but officials could not ascertain whether Abu Sayyaf bandits carried out the abduction.

Eleven men aboard three speedboats stopped the tugboat, which was pulling a barge, fired warning shots in the air and forced the captain and three officers into their boats, according to Philippine Navy chief Vice Adm. Victorino Hingco.

The gunmen left the six other crewmembers in the tugboat, which was pulling a coal-laden barge on a two-week run from Indonesia to Cebu, said Sthillainathan Thillai, a manager for the vessel's Singaporean owner.

The gunmen fled with their four captives toward Jolo island where troops, backed by two MG520 assault helicopters, were subsequently put on alert, said Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the military's Southern Command.

The six crewmembers traveled northward aboard the barge. Philippine Navy SEAL commandos found the six near an island off Basilan shortly after midnight Tuesday, Hingco said found them.

Carolina declined to speculate who was responsible for the abduction, the latest in a series of high-profile abductions that have plagued the islands and seas in Western Mindanao for years.

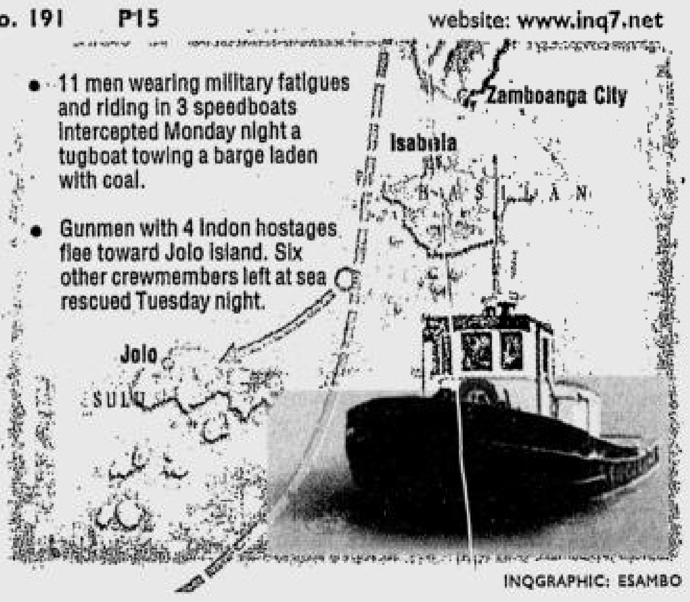
The six crewmembers, however, believed the gunmen "to be Abu Sayyaf," Carlos Degamo, a spokesperson for the vessels' shipping agent, told ANC television.

The gunmen did not touch the boat's cargo and the crew's valuables, but destroyed the vessel's radio equipment, according to officials.

Even so, Thillai said that no ransom demands had been made as of Tuesday morning.

In Baguio City, acting Press Secretary described the abduc-

4INDONS/A18



- 11 men wearing military fatigues and riding in 3 speedboats intercepted Monday night a tugboat towing a barge laden with coal.
- Gunmen with 4 Indon hostages flee toward Jolo Island. Six other crewmembers left at sea rescued Tuesday night.

INQGRAPHIC: ESAMBO

US soldiers, Abus clash

No American wounded in Basilan fight

By Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau* **and Norman Bordadora** *in Manila*

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Baptism of fire.

For the first time since joint RP-US military exercises started five months ago, American soldiers on Basilan Island clashed on Monday afternoon with "suspected Abu Sayyaf terrorists." At least two US Marines and one Filipino soldier exchanged heavy gunfire with 10 armed men, military officials from both countries said.

The five-minute firefight started when the bandits fired on US soldiers guarding American Seabees or military engineers building a road in Barangay Maligue, about 10 km from the capital town of Isabela. "The Marines were looking for high ground and were about 1.6 km away from the (Seabees) when the harassment occurred around 3:45 p.m.," Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Army's 103rd Infantry Brigade, told the INQUIRER.

Lt. Commander Jeff Davis, a spokesperson for the Pentagon, said in Washington, that "two US Marines who were guarding the perimeter of a construction site along with Philippines Armed Forces personnel came under fire. They returned fire."

At the US Embassy in Manila, spokesperson Frank Jenista emphasized that the Marines fired back in self-defense.

"They were not on patrol but on a routine security check. There were two US Marines and one AFP soldier, who were on a routine perimeter security of the engineering site," Jenista said in a telephone interview. Aleo

US/A18

AMERICAN and Filipino troops are on full combat alert aboard a military truck as they prepare to deploy outside an Army camp in Tabiawan, Isabela. AP

Suicide bomber kills 19 in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM—An Islamic extremist detonated nail-studded explosives on a Jerusalem city bus crowded with high school students and office workers Tuesday, killing himself and 19 passengers in the deadliest suicide attack in the hard-hit city in six years. Fifty-five people were injured.

The attack came as US President George W. Bush prepared to make a major Mideast policy statement.

The blast tore through the bus just before 8 a.m. (0500 GMT), sending bodies flying through windows and peeling off the roof and sides.

Rescue workers later lined up

SUICIDE/A18

Mendoza rapped for golf with suspected drug lord

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Talk about a bogey. Because he played golf with a suspected drug lord, outgoing Philippine National Police chief and incoming Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza now finds himself in a sand trap of his own making.

The Office of the Ombudsman in the Visayas on Monday recommended the filing of administrative charges against Mendoza and six other police and military officers for playing golf at the Cebu Country Club with Wellington Lim last November—at a time when a congressional investigation had linked Lim to big-time drug operations in Cebu.

The Ombudsman's fact-finding showed that contrary to Mendoza's earlier claims that he only happened to meet Lim at the golf course, it was Lim who actually "sponsored" the game.

Visayas Ombudsman Director Virginia Santiago said that Mendoza's act of playing with a suspected drug lord who was a subject of a pending investigation was "degrading to the integrity of the Philippine National Police and would possibly lead to mistrust of our people to our law enforcement (sic)."

She recommended that Mendoza face administrative charges for "conduct . . . prejudicial to the best interest of the service."

The recommendation came after Santiago conducted a formal fact-finding inquiry over reports that high-ranking officials in the PNP were reportedly seen playing golf with Lim.

At that time, Lim and his brother Peter were being investigated by the House committee on dangerous drugs

MENDOZA/A19

PRESIDENT Macapagal and soon-to-be "kumare" Sen. Loren Legarda "kiss and make up" in Iloilo City Monday. VAL HANDUMON

Loren assures GMA: I'm still with Lakas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Sen. Loren Legarda has pledged to her soon-to-be *kumare*, President Macapagal-Arroyo, that she is sticking with the Lakas-NUCD party in the Senate.

"I assured her that I was staying with the party. She was gratified although she already knew that because I had been in touch with her since Saturday," Legarda told the INQUIRER, moments after she met with the President at the Tatoy's Manokan and Seafoods Restaurant here on Monday night.

Reports that Legarda was bolting the administration party came after opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara introduced her as "the next President or Vice President in 2004" at the Independence Day rites in Antique.

She was also reportedly being eyed as Angara's running mate in the 2004 elections.

Legarda said the introduction was done "in jest."

LOREN/A19

Palace eyeing Flavier for Senate presidency

JESS YUSON

FLAVIER: "Napoleonic" solution to a leadership stalemate in the Senate.

By Rocky Nazareno

JUAN Flavier serving as interim Senate President could be the "Solomonic" solution to the impasse in the chamber.

Malacañang is reportedly "drafting the mechanics and talking to the concerned personalities" that will allow Flavier to assume the top Senate post and opposition Senators Aquilino Pimentel, Sergio Osmeña III and Rodolfo Biazon to transfer to the administration camp.

A Malacañang source said the proposal would be most acceptable to all parties because Flavier had no political agenda and ambition. "That way, no one wins, no one loses," the source said.

As things stand, 12 opposition senators outnumber the 11-member administration bloc. Sen. Ramon Revilla, who is in the United States recuperating from a spine operation, is not counted in determining the quorum.

Under the proposal, Malacañang would have to convince Senate President Franklin

PALACE/A6

SANA MAKUHA ANG TESTIMONY!

Second FRONT PAGE

Sanction sought vs Marcos banker

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Lawyers of 10,000 human rights victims trying to enforce a judgment that has grown to more than $3 billion against the estate of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos have asked a judge to impose sanctions against a Swiss financier for failing to cooperate in the case.

US District Judge Manuel L. Real on Monday delayed ruling on the motion after the lawyers agreed to make one final attempt to arrange a deposition from Jean-Paul Sunier of Suntrust, a Swiss financial corporation.

The lawyers, who allege that Sunier had parked the money for Marcos all these years, believe they can finally get the deposition from the Swiss financier.

"We've been struggling for many years to try to recover money that was owned by Ferdinand Marcos," the plaintiffs' attorney Robert Swift said. "I'm hopeful that the information (from Sunier) will be helpful."

The class-action lawsuit by 9,539 Filipino rights abuse victims was filed against the Marcos estate in 1986, the year Marcos was deposed and fled to Hawaii. He died in 1989.

In 1995, a Honolulu jury awarded the plaintiffs $1.9 billion after finding Marcos responsible for summary executions, disappearances and torture.

The judgment was upheld by the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in December 1996, but the plaintiffs had trouble collecting money from foreign accounts with contested ownership.

In the US District Court in Los Angeles in 1999, Real approved a $150 million settlement that was to be taken from $570 million of Marcos' frozen Swiss bank deposits held in an escrow account in the Philippine National Bank.

But the payoff has been tied up in court proceedings on the numerous ill-gotten wealth and forfeiture cases against the Marcoses and their cronies.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government contends that all the Marcos assets that have so far been found are ill-gotten and belong to the government. Under the law, any amount recovered from ill-gotten wealth cases of the Marcoses should go to land reform.

The Sandiganbayan anti-graft court hearing the Marcos cases has disapproved the $150 million settlement, ruling that funds for compensation to the rights victims should be taken from the Marcoses' private funds and not from whatever funds the government can recover.

Real terminated the settlement and reinstated the original judgment in November 2000 after plaintiffs complained that the Philippine government had blocked the possibility of any transfer of funds from Swiss bank accounts to pay their claims.

The total amount of the settlement today, with interest, is about $3.1 billion, Swift said.

Swift's motion on Monday had asked Real to hold Sunier in contempt and impose fines of up to $10,000 a day until he agreed to testify.

In refusing to testify, "Mr. Sunier has asserted Swiss banking privilege for a significant period of time," Swift said. "We don't think it applies."

Jack Cullen, an attorney for Suntrust, suggested that both sides make an offer to depose Sunier under certain restrictions that would allow the financier to avoid incriminating himself.

Cullen said sanctions would be counter-productive and result in Sunier refusing to testify.

"Everyone has to take a step back and question whether imposing contempt sanctions against Mr. Sunier will move the ball forward," Cullen said.

Cullen suggested "multiple alternative methodologies" for obtaining Sunier's testimony, a move that prompted a scolding from Real.

"This is not the Burger King," the judge said. "We do not do it Mr. Sunier's way."

Real agreed to withhold deciding on the motion for sanctions and allow Cullen two days to convey the latest deposition request to Sunier in Switzerland.

Cullen, who declined comment outside court, told the judge he would recommend to Sunier that he accept the latest offer, which calls for the deposition to take place on July 3 in Munich, Germany.

AP

'I hope your island will sink'

By J. Javellana

THE MOTHER of slain American hostage Guillermo Sobero has written a bitter letter to the Abu Sayyaf, cursing the bandits and wishing them dead for killing her son.

"I hope that one day your island will sink and disappear from the face of the earth with all the devils living there," said Andrea Sobero in a four-page letter dated November 2001 and addressed to Abu Sabaya and Hector Janjalani.

"At least you will soon be killed and I hope it will be very soon and in the meantime I want you never to forget that I hate you with an infinite hatred for what you did to my son. Only when I learn that you have been killed will I start to live again," she wrote.

The letter, handwritten in Spanish, was given to Ma. Fe Rosadeno, Sobero's fiancée, after she was released on Nov. 15, 2001.

Sobero and his fiancée were among the hostages taken from the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan.

Rosadeno said Mrs. Sobero, who is in her late 50s, wanted her letter published.

PCGG poised to charge Imelda over PLDT shares

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government is considering filing a criminal suit against Imelda Marcos for allegedly illegally obtaining shares in the Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Co. while holding a Cabinet position.

The possibility was brought on by a cross-claim that Imelda, the widow of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, had filed with the Sandiganbayan in 1999 claiming that she owned a bloc of PLDT shares whose ownership was being disputed.

The PCGG said that a graft case could very well be brought against Imelda because she allegedly obtained the shares while she was a member of the Cabinet.

Besides being first lady, Imelda was the minister for human settlements in the Marcos Cabinet as well as the governor of the Metropolitan Manila Commission.

"It is a violation of the Anti-Graft Law and both the 1973 and 1987 constitutions for a Cabinet member to own shares in a business that has been given a franchise by the government, whether these shares are directly or indirectly owned," PCGG commissioner Ruben Carranza Jr. said.

Carranza admitted, however, that a recent Sandiganbayan decision on the disputed PLDT shares could become a "complicating factor" in the decision to file a graft case against Imelda.

In a decision handed down last month, the Sandiganbayan anti-graft court ruled that the 2.4 million disputed PLDT shares had been lawfully acquired by the late Ramon Cojuangco, Imelda Cojuangco, and Prime Holdings Inc.

PPA cut in next Meralco billings

ELECTRIC bills will be considerably lower in the next billing when the purchased power adjustment is reduced by P1.26 per kilowatt-hour, Meralco announced yesterday.

Starting this month's billing, the PPA will be P2.04 per kWh, down from last month's P3.30 per kWh. The P1.26 reduction is in compliance with the directive of President Macapagal-Arroyo to reduce the PPA and ease the burden on the consumers.

Meralco and its own independent power producers—Quezon Power and First Gas—offered the biggest cuts in PPA charges, the Lopez controlled power utility said in a press statement.

It said Meralco cut its PPA by P.50 per kWh, its IPPs by P.40 per kWh, and the National Power Corp.

Meralco had vowed to lower its electricity rates by P0.60 per kWh if allowed to source its power supply from IPPs outside those of Napocor's, and these IPPs are allowed to operate at maximum capacity.

Under its power purchase contracts with the two IPPs, Meralco buys electricity from Quezon Power at P3.30 kWh and from first gas at P3.80 per kWh. On the other hand, the electricity supplied by Napocor and its IPPs are priced at P4.40 per kWh.

Meralco vice president and treasurer Rafael Andrada said unlike other distribution utilities, Meralco—Napocor's biggest client—does not enjoy any discount from the state-owned firm, which, in fact, sells to other distribution utilities at lower rates. Instead, under existing policy, Meralco subsidizes by P0.40 per kWh consumers outside its franchise not only in Luzon but also in Visayas and Mindanao.

But the president of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco), Asisclo Gonzaga, had claimed that Meralco was fudging the figures to polish its image at the expense of the government.

President Macapagal had directed Napocor to lower its PPA charges to Meralco by P0.40 per kWh. Napocor complied effective May 8.

Meralco, being a mere collection agents for Napocor as far as the PPA is concerned, automatically reduced customer billings by P0.40, it said.

Meralco, however, said the net reduction was actually P0.36 per kWh because Napocor managed to increase its other charges to Meralco

Meralco blamed for unneeded power plant

MERALCO knew as early as 1998 that there would be an oversupply of power but still went ahead with the construction of its San Lorenzo power plant.

This was the reply of National Transmission Corp. president Asisclo Gonzaga to the charge of Sen. Sergio Osmeña III that Transco committed a monumental oversight and should be blamed for the construction of a power plants that are not now needed.

Osmeña had accused the National Power Corp. of failure to provide adequate transmission facilities for new power plants.

But Gonzaga tossed the blame back to Meralco.

When electricity demand plunged due to the Asian financial crisis and at a time when due diligence was still being conducted by financial lenders for the San Lorenzo plant, NPC had already foreseen the future overcapacity and informed Meralco about it, Gonzaga said in a press statement.

"We told them as early 1998 that San Lorenzo plant was not yet needed by the system and that there would be a delay in our transmission projects. Still they continued to construct San Lorenzo," Gonzaga said.

Gonzaga added that even if it is true that the national government put pressure on Meralco to put up San Lorenzo, Meralco could simply have said no by invoking that it would be against their best interests.

Gonzaga also pointed out that there was already a heavy concentration of power supply in Southern Luzon, particularly in the Batangas area and that adding San Lorenzo would put more pressure on Transco's transmission lines there.

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Solon sees monopoly in Gokongwei bid for PLDT

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE HOUSE committee on transportation and communications has been asked to investigate the Gokongwei Group's move to buy a controlling stake in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. as this would reportedly violate anti-monopoly laws.

Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago also filed a second resolution asking the committee to investigate the alleged failure of the Gokongwei-owned Digitel to pay almost P1 billion in obligations to the Department of Transportation and Communications and the National Telecommunications Commission.

Santiago served as NTC commissioner from 1998 to 2001.

"They have not even settled their obligations to the DOTC and the NTC and now they want to buy PLDT? We should ask them to pay up first," Santiago said.

He said Gokongwei Group had bought, through a joint venture deal with the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co., a 22.5 percent interest in the PLDT worth $616 million despite its failure to settle the "demandable obligations to the government."

According to the congressman, Digitel has an outstanding balance of P562.1 million to the DOTC as of May 31 this year. This involved the Facilities Management Agreement and a subsequent Financial Lease Agreement that that DOTC entered into with Digitel in 1995 under the National Telephone Project.

He said Digitel also had another unpaid obligation worth P114.9 million in the form of supervision and regulation fees to the NTC and P288.9 million for various unpaid permits as of June 2.

Aside from its payments track record, Santiago said the Gokongwei Group's acquisition of PLDT violated Republic Act 7925, or the Telecommunications Liberalization Act of 1995.

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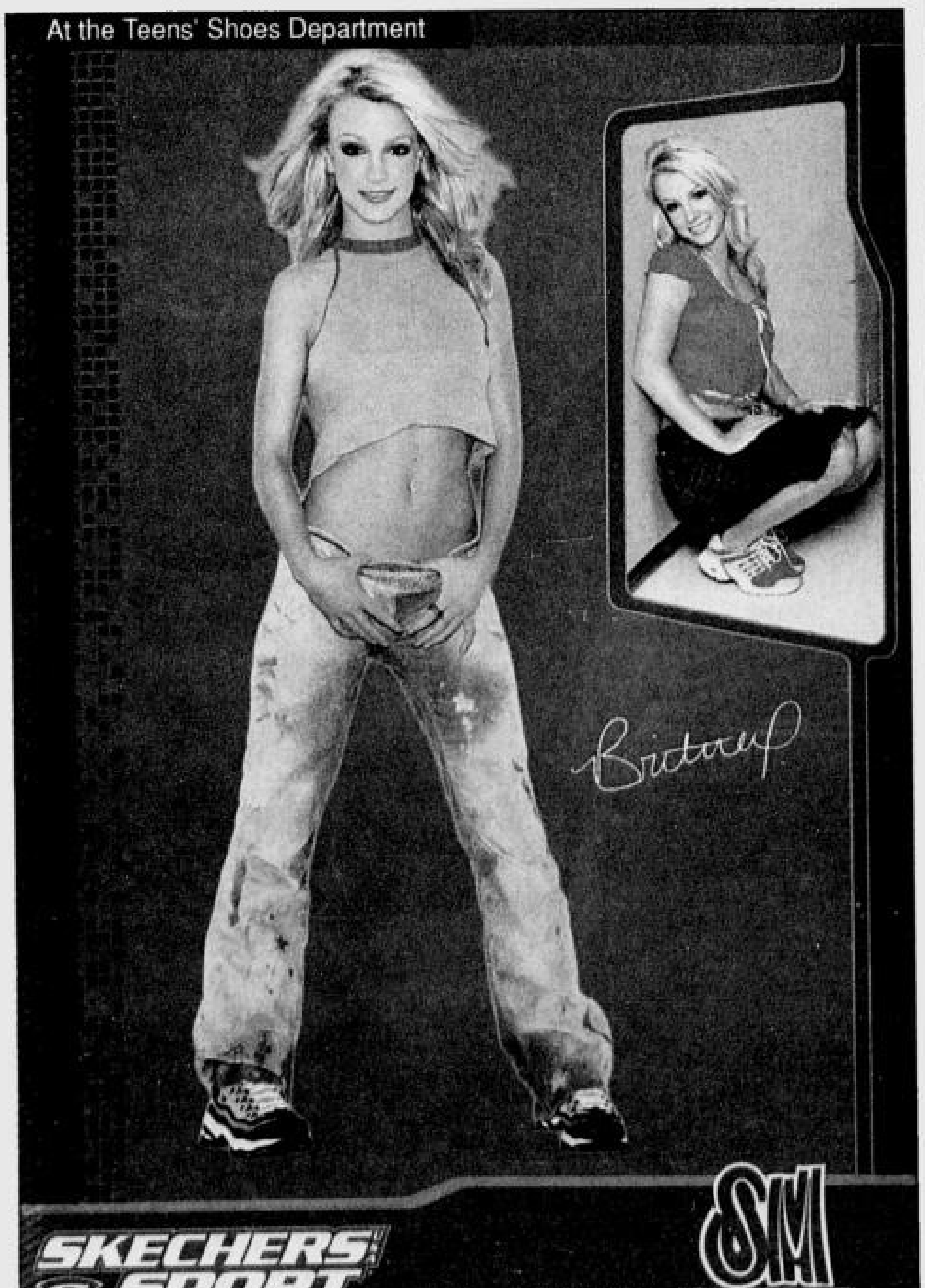
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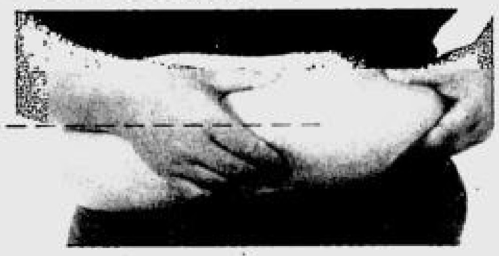

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Gloria to face Palace reporters anew

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed to face Palace reporters again after nearly two months.

Her media handlers hastily arranged a luncheon with reporters today in Calamba, Laguna.

The President was supposed to pay Calamba a short visit to mark the birth anniversary of Jose Rizal. Ten Manila-based and 10 Laguna-based reporters were invited to the luncheon.

Palace reporters on Monday grumbled that the President appeared to be avoiding the press.

That day she canceled her weekly radio program, cutting off the reporters' remaining opportunity to get her views on various issues.

She has already canceled her weekly luncheons with Palace reporters, which replaced the weekly televised press conference.

The last luncheon was in mid-April.

Palace officials claimed the President was just too busy with her provincial trips to make time for the weekly half-hour early morning radio interview.

But some observers believe the President's media handlers were bothered that she still came off as snooty (*mataray*).

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. on Monday promised to set up an interview as soon as the President's schedule lightens up.

"This is just a temporary situation," he promised.

The Malacañang press corps asked Afable to reinstate the formal weekly press conference.

Afable was non-committal.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To All Globe Telecom Holdings, Inc. Philippine Deposit Receipt Holders

Reference is made to (1) the Philippine Deposit Receipt Instrument (the "PDR Instrument") dated 06 October 2000 executed by Globe Telecom Holdings, Inc. (the "Issuer" or "GTHI") in favor of the Holders of the Issuer's Philippine Deposit Receipts ("PDRs"); and (2) to the Philippine Deposit Receipt Agency Agreement between Globe Telecom Holdings, Inc. and Bank of the Philippine Islands (the PDR Agent) dated 06 October 2000 (the "PDR Agency Agreement).

Unless otherwise stated, all capitalized terms herein have the same meaning as that in the PDR Instrument.

Last 02 July 2001, we served the PDR Agent notice that in view of the completion of the Globe-Islacom combination, all of the Underlying Shares held by the Issuer can now be owned by non-Philippine persons without violating the Philippine ownership requirement under Philippine law. The PDR Agent has commenced mailing of this notice to the Holders last 02 July 2001. More than 90 days has elapsed since such notice was served.

Further to this, we hereby notify PDR Holders that we have received further notice from Globe Telecom that it has set the expiry date for the PDRs. **The Expiry Date is on 15 July 2002 (the "Expiry Date").**

Pursuant to Sec. 5(c) of the PDR Instrument, no PDRs may be exercised after the Expiry Date. Underlying Shares in respect of any PDRs still outstanding on the Expiry Date shall be sold through an Eligible Broker and the proceeds, after deducting all applicable expenses, shall be payable by the GTHI to the relevant Holders upon presentation of the relevant PDR Certificates.

We have likewise advised the PDR Agent to cause a copy of this notice from GTHI to be served to the PDR Holders in accordance with the relevant terms of the PDR Instrument and the PDR Agency Agreement.

Globe Telecom Holdings, Inc.

Bunye confirms press job offer, denies Biazon deal

By Carlito Pablo

BUNYE

IGNACIO Bunye, the ex-congressman from Muntinlupa, yesterday confirmed that he has been offered the post of press secretary.

But Bunye denied that the offer was part of a supposed deal to convince opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon to jump to the majority bloc amid the standoff in the Senate.

An unnamed congressman has claimed that giving Bunye the Cabinet post was Malacañang's way of ensuring that Biazon's son, Muntinlupa Rep. Rozano Rufino Biazon, would run unopposed for a second House term in 2004.

Bunye and the young Biazon fought it out for the lone congressional seat of Muntinlupa in 2001, which the latter won.

"That's way off," Bunye said. "It has nothing to do with the recent developments in the Senate."

Bunye refused to comment further.

For the past few days, the Malacañang grapevine has been humming with talk that the Palace has already found a replacement for Rigoberto Tiglao, the press secretary and presidential spokesperson who is on leave.

A party stalwart of the ruling Lakas-NUCD, Bunye is also the father of lawyer Patricia Bunye, who is the spokesperson of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

The elder Bunye and Arroyo are both alumni of the Ateneo de Manila University law school.

A well-placed Palace source yesterday also confirmed the offer of the Cabinet post to Bunye.

The source said the announcement of Bunye's appointment was just "a matter of timing."

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, when asked about the Bunye appointment last week, said he had heard the President speak of it but that "she was just thinking out loud."

He recalled having heard Ms Macapagal say that "we should talk to Bunye" as she wanted Afable to return to his full-time job as head of the Presidential Management Staff.

Afable became acting press secretary when Tiglao took a six-month leave from April 15.

Bunye, who is also a former mayor of Muntinlupa, was a broadcast and print journalist during the late 1960s.

He was a correspondent for dzMT, the radio station of the pre-martial law Manila Times newspaper, and later also served as correspondent of the defunct Philippine Daily Star newspaper.

In a press briefing last week, Afable said he "didn't hear other names" during that conversation with the President and that he had yet to see any appointment papers.

All appointment papers pass through Afable's PMS desk.

The President herself had announced earlier that she was scouting for a new press secretary.

She noted then that Tiglao, who figured in skirmishes with a number of politicians during his stint as the presidential spokesperson, might have a tough time before the congressional Commission on Appointments.

Tiglao, who is to return in October from a six-month fellowship at Japan's Kyoto University, will remain presidential spokesperson but will assume in a concurrent capacity the post of presidential chief of staff.

Mendoza, 67

FRANCISCO Alberto Mendoza, former officer of UBIX Corp., died yesterday after a lingering illness. He was 67. His remains lie at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills, San Juan. Interment is tomorrow.

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Tancangco back in modernization body of Comelec

By B. Rivera

COMELEC Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco is back in the modernization committee, less than a year after she was booted out by the poll body's former chair Alfredo Benipayo for her failure to automate the 2001 polls.

Tancangco was tasked by new chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to make a "thorough study" of the Commission on Elections' modernization program for the 2004 national polls.

Abalos appointed commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr. to work with Tancangco, saying he trusted the three to come up with the most expedient proposals.

In a press briefing yesterday, Abalos also asked private groups, particularly the Photokina Marketing Corp., to "stay out of the picture" until the Comelec had finished studying its options.

Photokina, a member of the consortium that won the bidding for the P6.5-billion Voters Registration and Identification System (VRIS), earlier said it would seek an audience with Abalos to present the project.

Case in SC

"We don't need to do that right now," Abalos said. "There is a pending case in the Supreme Court."

The new chair said neither did he want to discuss the modernization with the National Movement for Free Elections, which participated actively in the crafting of the program during the time of Benipayo.

Abalos said the Namfrel, as well as the Senate, which created a technical working group for the program, should "wait until the Comelec has made an assessment on its own."

Tancangco lauded Abalos' decision, saying, "No outsider should be allowed to dictate on the Comelec.

She said she "never recognized" Benipayo's memo kicking her out of the modernization committee, which she chaired from 1998 to 2001.

Namfrel recalled in a statement yesterday that Tancangco's negligence as committee chair was one of the reasons it was initiating impeachment procedures against her as soon as Congress resumes on July 22.

The group said Tancangco had been vigorously lobbying for the VRIS, junking cheaper alternatives for the computerization and cleansing of the voters' list drafted by past commissions.

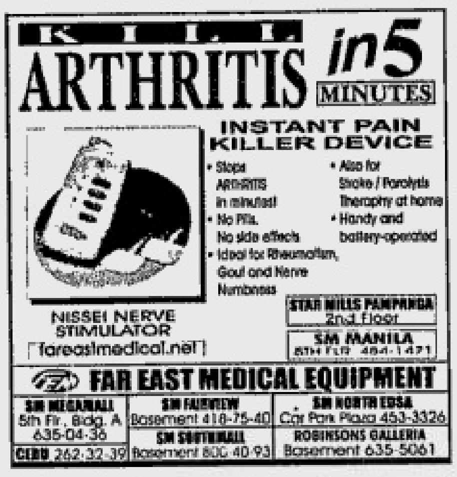
Tuason and Tancangco said they would use past studies and materials on the proposed modernization projects like the VRIS and Automated Counting and Canvassing of Results System.

Findings of the technical working group, composed of experts from the Comelec, Senate and the information technology sector, would be treated as just another material, Tancangco said.

The technical working group earlier suggested that VRIS be junked because it was not feasible.

Meanwhile, Benipayo was charged with graft before the Ombudsman's office yesterday by the Philippine Association of Revenue District Officers led by Aguinaldo L. Miravalles.

The group said Benipayo should be held liable for the alleged illegal reshuffling of Bureau of Internal Revenue officials and employees during the election period last year. *With Michael Lim Ubac*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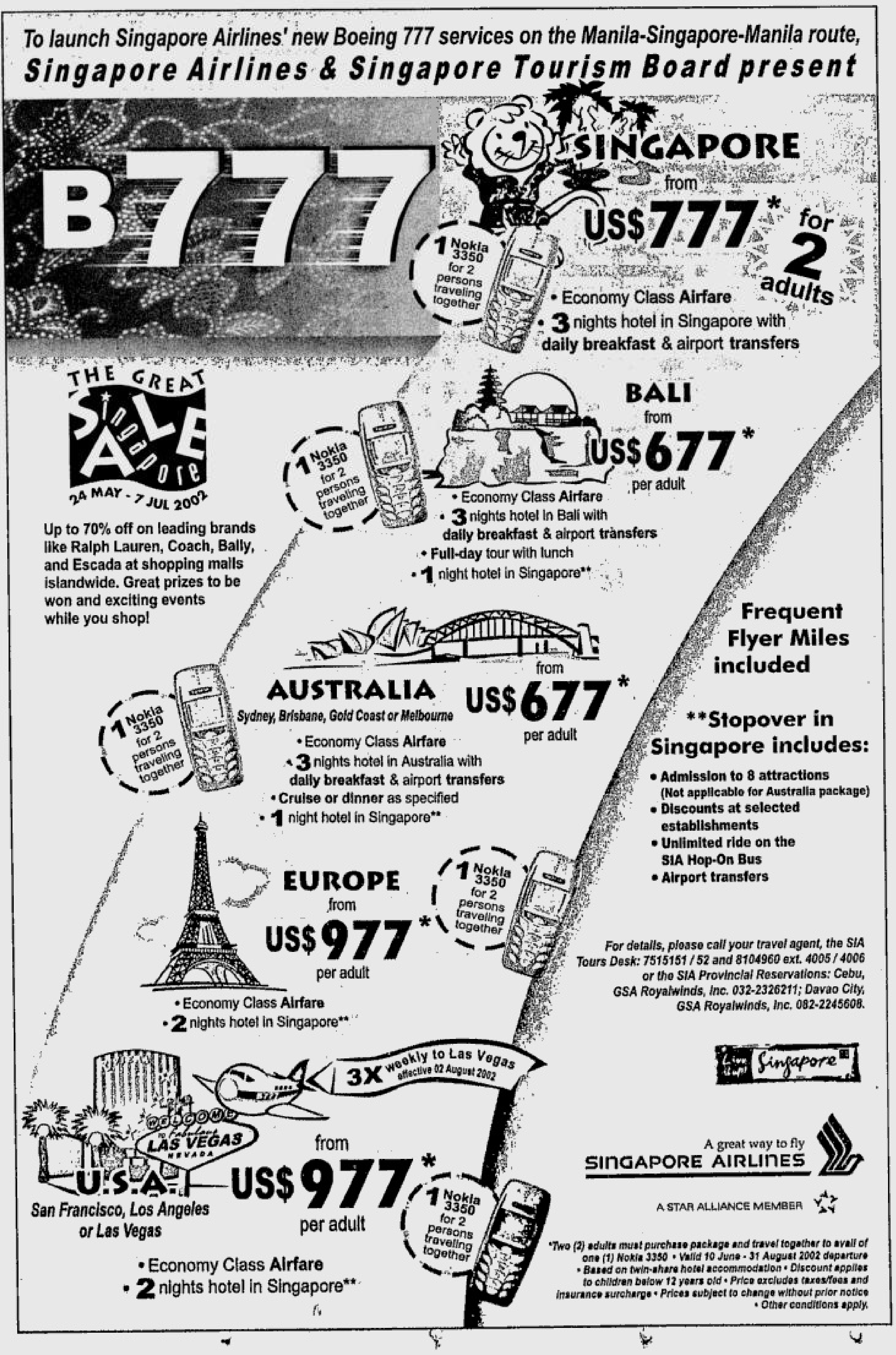
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Palace eyeing Flavier for Senate presidency

From page A1

Drilon to step down while offering key positions in the new majority to Pimentel, Osmeña and Biazon.

Pimentel would assume the position of majority leader while Osmeña would get the chairmanship of the Senate finance committee.

Biazon could also be handed the chairmanship of the Senate national defense and security committee as part of a massive reorganization.

Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar earlier said that he was willing to give up his post if only to help end the Senate crisis.

"The only important thing is that, on July 22 (when Congress starts its second regular session), the administration should have the majority in the Senate," the source said.

Impeachment senators

Sen. Ralph Recto said the administration coalition was pinning its hope of keeping its hold on the Senate leadership on Pimentel, Osmeña III and Biazon whom he described as the "impeachment senators."

The three may not have "similar principles" as their colleagues in the opposition mostly identified with deposed President Joseph Estrada, according to Recto.

Pimentel, Sergio Osmeña III and Biazon all voted to open the second envelope containing the Jose Velarde account during the impeachment trial of Estrada.

"We realize that their talent will deepen the administration bench," Recto said of the three senators.

He cited Pimentel, the Senate President during the impeachment trial, for being the "father of the Local Government Code."

Recto noted that Osmeña was "a known expert in economics and finance." Pimentel and Osmeña, both from the PDP-Laban, are known to vote as one.

Recto said Biazon would be another "important addition to the administration because of his experience as a former military officer and Armed Forces chief at staff."

"(Pimentel, Osmeña and Biazon) are highly principled persons who can rise above personal political convenience and coalesce on the matter of legislative agenda," Recto said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan defended Malacañang's alleged efforts to woo some opposition senators to the administration side.

"As head of the political coalition that was formed prior to Edsa II, there is nothing wrong if President Macapagal-Arroyo moves to strengthen that coalition supporting her administration," Pangilinan said.

In fact, "her being the leader of a political coalition makes it her duty to strengthen it," Pangilinan said.

Price tag

Opposition Sen. Gregorio Honasan confirmed that the Macapagal administration had been trying hard to influence the thinking of some opposition senators in time for the opening of Congress on July 22.

Asked if he was being wooed by the administration into supporting the group of Senate President Franklin Drilon, Honasan said, "Yes, but nobody knows what my price tag is."

Asked what his price tag was, he quipped, "Ask my children."

Honasan accused Malacañang of acting like the Abu Sayyaf in its bid to keep the Senate "hostage" to its interests.

"Malacañang is like the Abu Sayyaf with the Senate as its hostage that was why we moved to reorganize it," Honasan said.

He said the opposition senators merely sought an independent Senate in effecting a dramatic change in the committee chairmanships and officers a week before the session was adjourned sine dine. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

TOOTS SOBERANO

A GOVERNMENT employee wraps a ceremonial "tapis" around President Macapagal during a visit to Baguio City Tuesday.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, June 19, 2002
11th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 K 2:1, 6-14**
Gospel: **Mt 6:1-6, 16-18**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Be careful not to make a show of your righteousness before people. If you do so, you do not gain anything from your Father in heaven. When you give something to the poor, do not have it trumpeted before you, as do those who want to be seen in the synagogues and in the streets in order to be praised by the people. I assure you, they have been already paid in full.

If you give something to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your gift remains really secret. Your Father who sees what is kept secret, will reward you.

When you pray, do not be like those who want to be seen. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues or on street corners to be seen by everyone. I assure you, they have already been paid in full. When you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father who is with you in secret; and your Father who sees what is kept secret will reward you.

When you fast, do not put on a miserable face as do the hypocrites. They put on a gloomy face, so people can see they are fasting. I tell you this: they have been paid in full already. When you fast, wash your face and make yourself look cheerful, because you are not fasting for appearances or for people, but for your Father who sees beyond appearances. And your Father, who sees what is kept secret will reward you."

Commentary

Human beings are like trees. Part of us is hidden, unknown even to ourselves, is covered by darkness, silence and mystery. The other side is public, exposed to light and noisy activity. When we identify ourselves only with the external side, we put at risk our growth and, without roots, we will be unable to stand against the strong winds in life. Like in the trees, our actions, our lives sprout from the richness of our silence and quietness. We must be aware of that secret room, where God the Father sees in secret and gives the reward of interior peace and happiness. When we do something good for others it is difficult not to want to be seen, but it is far more difficult not to look at ourselves and say: "I am good."

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (LAND TITLES AND DEEDS)—Acquisitive prescription—Acquisitive prescription of dominion and other real rights may be ordinary or extraordinary, depending on whether the property is possessed in good faith and with just title for the time fixed by law. For purposes of prescription, there is just title when the adverse claimant came into possession of the property through one of the modes recognized by law for the acquisition of ownership or other real rights, but the grantor was not the owner or could not transmit any right. On the other hand, good faith consists in the reasonable belief that the person from whom the possessor received the thing was its owner but could not transmit the ownership thereof. Acquisitive prescription is a mode of acquiring ownership by a possessor through the requisite lapse of time in order to ripen into ownership, possession, must be in the concept of the owner, public, peaceful, and uninterrupted. Thus, possession with a juridical title, such as by a usufructuary, a trustee, a lessee, agent or pledge, not being in the concept of an owner, cannot ripen into ownership by acquisitive prescription unless the juridical relation is first expressly repudiated and such repudiation has been communicated to the other party. [Citations omitted.][Justice Pardo, First Division, Lubos v. Galupo, G.R. No. 139136, January 18, 2002]

Digest by R. B. Vera

Cayetano wants SC to rule on Senate row

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Renato Cayetano is willing to bring the Senate dispute to the Supreme Court if his colleagues in the administration coalition support this move.

He expressed the hope that the Supreme Court would once and for all end the Senate impasse.

Cayetano said yesterday that he was not convinced by the claim of the opposition that 12 senators constituted the majority of the 24-member Senate because Sen. Ramon Revilla was out of the country. Revilla is recuperating from a spine operation in the United States.

The opposition bloc led by Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, cited the Supreme Court decision in the Avelino vs Cuenco case in 1949, which said that senators out of the country did not count in determining the Senate quorum.

The Senate is still split 12-11 in favor of Angara's group.

Because of this, Angara's group seized control of almost all of key committees in the Senate and ousted Manuel Villar as Senate President pro tempore and Loren Legarda-Leviste as majority leader.

"I am also a lawyer and I read the Avelino vs Cuenco case and I'm not convinced of the interpretation of Senator Angara," Cayetano said.

The Constitution provides a quorum of all senators, and does not speak of the senators who are out of the country, according to Cayetano.

He insisted that the three-day sessions conducted by Angara's group after Drilon had declared the session adjourned sine dine was illegal because Pimentel, acting as the majority leader, had no authority to call the session.

Cayetano also stressed that the takeover of the chairmanships of the different committees were invalid, as the Senate was no longer in session.

Asked if he would ask for a Supreme Court ruling on these issues, Cayetano replied, "Yes, I'm tempted. I'm willing but I'm a team player you know. I will consult first with my group. If they want me to proceed, they should support me in this."

He said it was time that the Supreme Court either make a new ruling or clarify its decision in 1949 "for the sake not only of this Senate but also of the future Senate."

Taiwanese Romeo weds wrong Pinay

From page A1

Hsu Tse-han and Filipino bride Mary Canque, court officials in the northern county of Taoyuan said yesterday.

But when Hsu went to the Philippines to meet his bride for the first time, he was mistakenly set up with another Filipino woman, Jenny Danouze.

The couple quickly got married in March in a group ceremony arranged by the matchmaking agency.

When Hsu returned to Taiwan alone to register the marriage and get his wife's visa, he filed the paperwork for the woman he was supposed to meet, Canque.

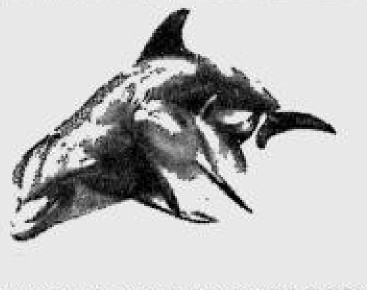
Later, when Danouze tried to emigrate to Taiwan, her visa application was rejected because her husband reported that he married a woman named Canque.

Hsu's matchmaker is trying to correct the mistake by proving that there was a paperwork mix-up and that the man married Danouze, not Canque, in the Philippines, said a court official, who only gave his surname, Liu.

The court is investigating the case, the official said.

A leading newspaper, the United Daily News, quoted Hsu as saying he doesn't speak English and in his eagerness to wed the woman, he did not ask or check her name. ***AP***

Why are Environmental and Animal Protection Groups against Whale and Dolphin Shows?



Dolphin and whale shows promote the capture of these animals from the wild. The captive dolphin industry destroys close-knit dolphin families. Many of these animals die eventually from stress-related illness caused by their being torn apart from their pods (families). *Note: Two (2) false killer whales belonging to the Ocean Adventure in Subic Bay already died.*

Q - WHY DO DOLPHINS APPEAR TO ENJOY PERFORMING IN MARINE PARKS?

Dolphins appear to smile because of how their mouths are shaped; it isn't a reflection of their emotional state. Captive dolphins and whales are trained to perform desired behaviors in order to obtain a food reward. In the wild, they eat only live fish, while in captivity, they are fed dead fish. Through this, their natural free-loving spirit is gradually destroyed, leaving them totally dependent on their trainers.

Q - AREN'T OCEANARIUMS SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO SIMULATE THE NATURAL HABITAT OF THE DOLPHINS?

NO oceanariums or marine parks can ever recreate the natural habitat of these animals. Dolphins swim up to 40 miles a day. To simulate this, a dolphin will have to circle its pen or tank more than 3500 times everyday. They can dive to a depth of 1640 feet or 500 meters, and stay submerged for 20 minutes. Some facilities use artificial seawater or chlorinated water, which can damage the eyes of dolphins.

Each one of these animals excretes 4 to 5 times more waste than an average human. In their confinements, they are practically swimming in their own toilets. Captivity also prevents the dolphins from effectively using their sonar abilities. Because of the all-around fences or walls, their sonar signals bounce back at them. It's like sitting inside a steel barrel while people pound with a hammer on the outside. To get an idea of what it is like to be a captive dolphin, imagine spending the rest of your life blindfolded and trapped in a prison the size of a closet.

Q - DON'T MARINE PARKS HELP EDUCATE US ABOUT DOLPHINS AND WHALES?

To learn about the many complex behaviors of an animal species, it is but logical to study them in their natural habitat – free from human intervention. Shows like *Discovery* and *Animal Planet* film animals in the wild to show how these animals actually behave and interact with their natural environment—things which can never be replicated in any artificial environment. Marine parks force animals to perform unnatural behaviors for public amusement. The whole idea is nothing more than a cheap circus. By watching these shows, children are miseducated into thinking that captivity is good, and that watching captive animals teaches respect for nature.

Q - DON'T THESE FACILITIES HELP IN THE CONSERVATION OF MARINE ANIMALS?

Conservation programs are undertaken to ensure an animal's ability to survive in the wild. They rehabilitate individual animals and seek to develop their natural instincts so they can better re-adapt in the wild. Facilities like marine parks and oceanariums do exactly opposite - they capture animals from the wild and systematically destroy their natural ability to survive in the wild.

Q - WHAT IF THE DOLPHINS CAME FROM CAPTIVE BREEDING FACILITIES AND NOT FROM THE WILD – IS THAT ACCEPTABLE?

Again NO. Captive breeders still need to get their dolphins from the wild, as there has yet to be any kind of successful captive dolphin breeding program anywhere. Just like the dolphins and whales in marine parks, those living in breeding facilities are subjected to the same unnatural conditions. Most of these dolphins will eventually be sold to marine parks. What little semblance of family and mutual bonding they have developed among one another in captivity, will eventually be shattered.

Q - IF MARINE PARKS ARE BAD, WHY DO WE ALLOW ZOOS?

Nowadays zoos are trying to recreate as much as possible the natural environment of their captive animals. One of the results of this trend is the safari zoo found in some countries. Most zoos though, fell short of expectation, due to limitation of existing space, insufficient funding and ignorance or indifference on the part of local authorities. A more promising concept is that of protected sanctuaries, where the animals are allowed to live in huge tracts of land that closely resembles their original habitat, and free from human meddling.

The meteoric rise in the awareness of animal rights and environmental concerns, among many countries, during the last 200 years has compelled many of us to re-evaluate the way we treat our planet Earth and her inhabitants in the animal kingdom.

Compared to zoos, marine parks are a relatively new idea. Operators of these facilities should learn from their counterparts in zoos, and not repeat the same mistakes and create a new problem.

Q - DON'T MARINE PARKS RESCUE DOLPHINS AND WHALES FROM FISHERMEN, THUS PREVENTING THEM FROM BEING KILLED? (*The Japanese drive fisheries is practiced by some Japanese fishermen who herd hundreds of dolphins and whales to the shore. The best looking animals are sold to the dolphin show industry while the rest are slaughtered*)

There is an analogy to this; if someone rescued a beautiful woman from certain death, only to exploit her for profit, will that make him right? The fact is the captive show industry presents one of the biggest incentives for those fishermen to continue their cruel trade. Sure, those dolphins that were bought by the marine parks were momentarily prevented from being killed, but in the end, these poor animals will be subjected to another form of killing – a slow death in an aquatic prison.

If we are sincerely concern about the welfare of these highly intelligent creatures, and the survival of our fragile ecosystem, we should stop exploiting what remains of our wildlife. We should not allow ourselves to be deceived by marketing ploys of people, whose only objective is to make profits at the expense of these animals.

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New PNP chief wants clean slate; revamp looms

DEPUTY Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. wants a clean slate, and will appoint new deputy chiefs of his choice when he assumes the top post of the Philippine National Police, an official said yesterday.

"The entire command will be wiped out," said the official, who asked not to be named. "He wants teamwork."

Ebdane succeeds PNP Chief Leandro Mendoza, following the latter's appointment as transportation secretary. The turnover has been set for this week or early next week.

Deputy Director General Edgar Galvante, deputy chief for operation, and Deputy Director General Rex Piad, chief of the directorial staff, would soon be replaced since they were retiring in September, the official said.

EBDANE

Three months before their retirement, both Galvante and Piad would be placed on a non-duty status, the official added, so they could clear their papers.

Director Florencio Fianza, director for Human Resource and Doctrine Development; and Director Hercules Cataluna, director for Intelligence, were being groomed to replace Galvante and Piad respectively, the source said.

Another post to be vacated soon is that of deputy chief for administration (DCA), currently held by Ebdane, who also heads the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf).

The source said Deputy Director General Clyde Fernandez, chief of the Philippine Center on Transnational Crimes, and Ebdane's "mistah" (Philippine Military Academy Class '70), was being eyed as next DCA. It wasn't immediately known who would replace Ebdane at Naktaf.

Chief Supt. Crescencio Maralit, acting PNP spokesperson, said the reshuffle was expected, since 23 police generals were retiring this year, eight of them by this month's end.

In Pangasinan, Police Deputy Director General Reynaldo V. Velasco welcomed Ebdane's appointment as PNP chief, saying it was an "assurance of President Macapagal's respect for seniority in the police agency," and therefore guaranteed a smooth transition in its leadership.

Velasco, PNP director for comptrollership, also welcomed Mendoza's appointment to the DOTC.

Since Mendoza was the first PNP chief to be appointed to the Cabinet, Velasco said it was a "big boost to the morale of the 113,000 men and women in the police force."

Velasco spoke as Mendoza's representative to the launch of an agri-livelihood program for cops and their families in the town of Tayug, organized by the Department of Agriculture and 107th Provincial Mobile Group.

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Summons out for YOU leader

By Michael Lim Ubac

YOUNG Officers Union leader Supt. Rafael Carder has been formally summoned by the Justice depa ment to answer charges that he masterminded t murder of Baron Alexander Cervantes last Dec. 31

Also ordered to appear before the DOJ on June were Joseph A. Mostrales, an ex-Marine sergeant a the self-confessed gunman; and his accomplices Jain S. Centeno and Erlinda T. Torres.

Cardeno is the subject of an ongoing manhunt, whi the three others, whom he allegedly paid P20,000 f the job, are detained at the National Anti-Kidnappi Task Force(Naktaf) headquarters in Camp Crame.

In a subpoena signed June 13, Senior State Pro ecutor Theodore M. Villanueva also ordered the fo accused to submit counter-affidavits.

In a separate order, complainant Roque Cervantes, w nesses Michael Cataluna and Roy Faidan, and PNP Crimin Investigation and Detection Group operatives Supt. Erics Velasquez, PO2 Honesto Garon and SPO1 Larry Pablo we asked to appear before the DOJ on the same day.

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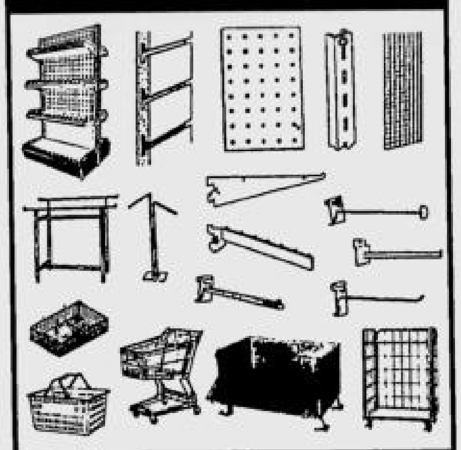

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Test for Ebdane

EDITORIAL

WAS Dr. Charmaine Ong able to escape or was she freed after her family paid millions of pesos in ransom to her abductors? Talk circulating in Metro Manila's Chinese community is that money—as much as P50 million—changed hands before she was able to find sanctuary in a parish church in San Fernando, Pampanga, last Saturday. The police, however, insist that no ransom was paid, with Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, chief of the National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf), dismissing such talk as "plain rumors." The question, however, is, how can they be sure?

Ong, a dermatologist and daughter of the couple that owns one of the country's biggest meat-processing companies, was abducted Thursday evening as she stepped out of her clinic in Marulas, Valenzuela City. She was brought to a house in Angeles City where she was presumably held for two nights and one day, before she was able to take a jeepney to San Fernando and seek refuge in the church of Our Lady of Sorrows until her family took her away.

How Ong managed to get away from the clutches of her captors remains a mystery. No one can clear up the mystery better than Ong, but she isn't talking. Neither are the members of her family ready yet to talk about her ordeal. In fact, from the very beginning, they have refused to cooperate with the police or even with the private crime watchdog, Citizens Action Against Crime (CAAC), apparently afraid it would put her life in peril. And they are still not talking, apparently for fear of reprisal from her abductors who remain free. So how can Ebdane and every police official, who has been asked about it, say categorically that no ransom was paid?

Police officials are missing the point when they focus on denying this rumor, if indeed it is a rumor. The point is that another kidnapping was committed and the perpetrators remain free—perhaps to strike another day. Making sure they don't should be the focus of the efforts of the Philippine National Police. Whether or not those criminals have millions in their pockets, the police should find them and put them behind bars.

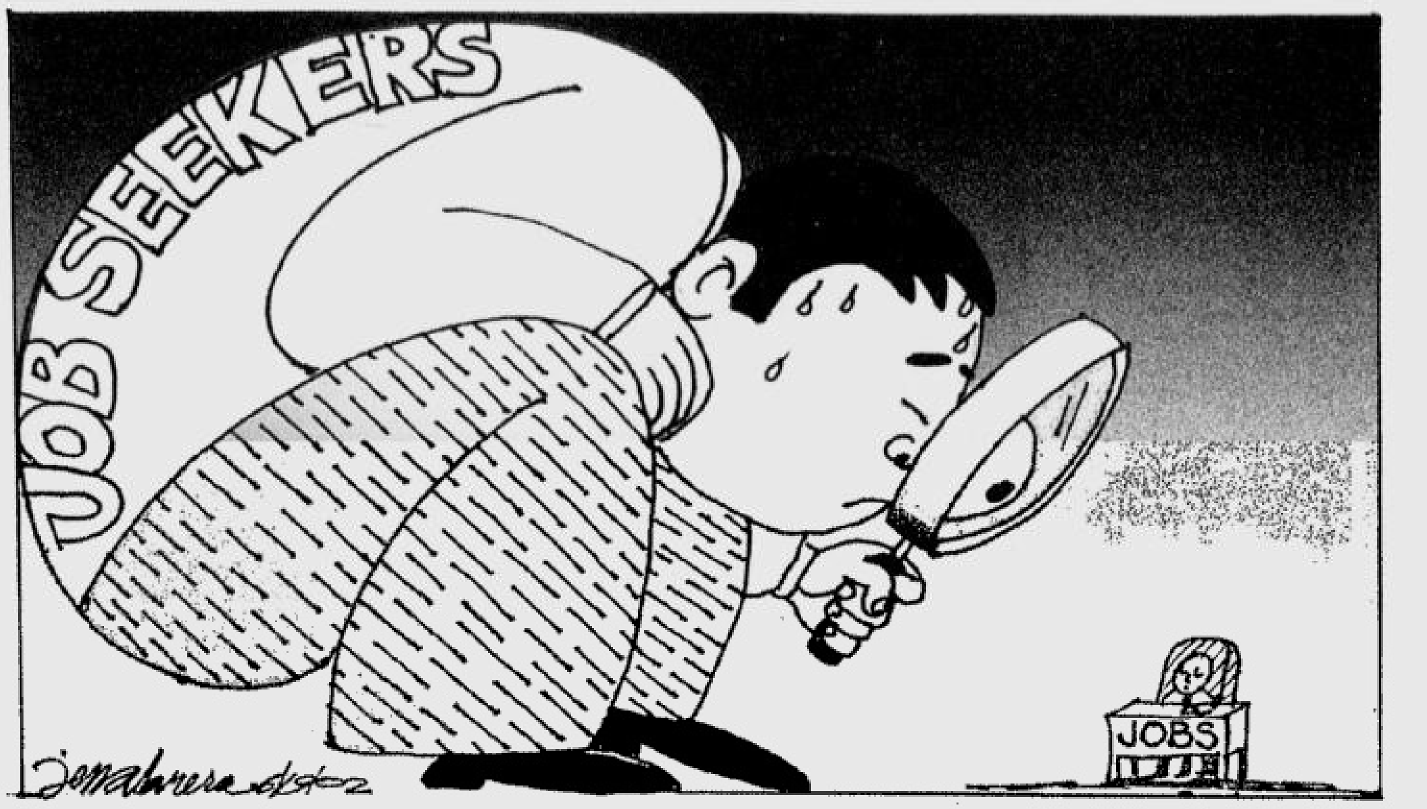
The Ong kidnapping could be a test case for Ebdane who is scheduled to take over command of the PNP in a day or two from PNP Director General Leandro Mendoza who is joining the Cabinet as transportation secretary. As far as solving kidnap cases goes, Ebdane enjoys the distinct advantage of being trusted by the Chinese-Filipino community which seems to consider Mendoza's record suspect. But then the Naktaf's record has been anything but encouraging. In the first five months alone, according to the CAAC, a total of 43 kidnapping cases, involving 80 victims, happened. Now that Ebdane will be calling the shots in the PNP, he will have to bear the brunt of the blame for the failure of the police not only to put a stop to the rash of kidnappings but also to check the crime wave that has been rising under the Macapagal administration.

The police may continue to deny it and they may have all the statistics to show otherwise, but very few people feel safe anymore, whether they are out in the streets or staying at home. For how can anyone feel safe when the criminals have become much bolder and they operate anywhere?

Last month, for instance, a trio of gunmen boarded a passenger bus in Pasay and announced a hold-up. When a policeman tried to fight them, they shot him dead and then went on divesting the passengers of their valuables. Before they were done, the bus had traversed the whole stretch of Edsa from Pasay to Monumento and back to Shaw Boulevard where the last of the hold-up men got off. What could be more brazen than hijacking a bus in the country's busiest highway?

INQUIRER columnist Ramon Tulfo had an even more chilling story to tell. Recently, a young Chinese-Filipino woman was kidnapped and her abductors demanded millions in ransom from her family. To drive home the urgency of delivering payment, the kidnappers raped her even as one of them was talking to her father over the phone. For sheer cruelty and sadism, it is difficult to imagine anything that can top that.

Who will stop these beasts from terrorizing the citizens some more? Obviously Mendoza was not the right man for the job, even if he had the full trust and confidence of the President. This is why everyone is seeing a ray of hope in Ebdane's assumption of the highest position in the PNP. Let us pray he delivers before we completely lose hope in the police and the government.



Return the sidewalks to the pedestrians

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SO far, the most popular appointment by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is that of former Marikina Mayor Bayani Fernando as chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority. The cause of the national jubilation is obvious: Fernando has been able to transform his city into the cleanest, most orderly and peaceful community in the metropolis. And his Riverside Park is the envy of many bigger and richer cities and municipalities. Bayani is an authentic hero, literally, not only to his constituents but to a lot of others as well.

If Fernando can do what he did to Marikina to the rest of Metro Manila—as the President suggested—then we may see the transformation of a metropolis that foreigners like Clare Danes abhor to one that they like. Years ago, this column reported what Fernando had done to Marikina. I think one of the important things he did was to clear the sidewalks. He removed not only the sidewalk vendors but other obstructions such as flowerpots and trash cans. He even went around with an acetylene torch and personally removed chains reserving the sidewalks for the parking of customers of commercial establishments. If Fernando can do this to the rest of Metro Manila, then I will chant "Alleluia" a thousand and one times.

For this is the biggest anomaly in Metro Manila: the sidewalks have been taken over by parked vehicles and illegal stalls, thus depriving pedestrians of a safe place to walk. Metro Manila is the only place in the world where vehicles use the sidewalks and the pedestrians walk out in the streets.

This is because commercial establishments have not provided parking slots for their customers but have appropriated the sidewalks—which rightfully belong to the public—for themselves and their customers. Many countries promote "walking tours" for tourists in their cities. We can't do that here; there are no sidewalks to walk on.

Even in Intramuros, where the sidewalks are relatively free (and I emphasize here "relatively") of parked vehicles and vendors, and where "walking tours" are being encouraged, it is not safe to walk after dark. The tourist is liable to get mugged by the squatters who have begun to infest again the Walled City after being cleared by then Mayor Antonio Villegas years ago for which he was widely praised and honored.

And this should be a lesson to squatters who refuse to be relocated. The Intramuros squatters were relocated to Pagasa in Quezon City and to Sapang Palay in Bulacan where they are now the proud and prosperous owners of valuable houses and lots. If they had continued to live in Intramuros, they would still be poverty-stricken squatters now.

But back to Fernando. His work is not as easy as it looks. He can set the policies and rules but they have to be implemented by the mayors. And most mayors don't move unless there's something in it for them. That is true in the case of traffic, garbage and peace and order problems. Fernando will need the cooperation and help not only of the mayors but of the general public as well. If we want a better quality of life in the urban jungle, we have to cooperate with Fernando.

That's what the people of Marikina did. Look how pleasant their community is now.

* * *

Isn't it ironic and anomalous that those who can afford to pay are the biggest tax cheats while those who can least afford it have no escape from the tax man? Taxes are withheld from the wages of minimum earners but corporate executives who earn millions, especially foreigners, don't pay taxes.

There are many such foreigner-consultants in government and private corporations here who have not been paying income taxes. French, Italians, Japanese, Australians, etc. consultants being paid millions of pesos here (we can give the Bureau of Internal Revenue their names and the corporations they work for) have all these years been cheating the Philippine government out of income taxes. Yet Philippine laws are very clear that resident and non-resident aliens are required to pay income taxes.

A resident alien is an individual who resides within the Philippines but who is not a Filipino citizen.

A non-resident alien is somebody whose permanent residence is not within the Philippines and is not a Filipino citizen.

According to the Internal Revenue Code of 1997, an alien individual, whether a resident or not, is taxed only for income derived from sources within the Philippines. All income by a resident alien is taxable.

Alien individuals employed by regional or area headquarters are supposed to pay a 15-percent tax on their income.

Non-resident aliens not engaged in trade or business have to pay a 25-percent tax on their income.

A non-resident alien who stays here for at least 120 days in any calendar year is deemed a non-resident alien doing business in the Philippines.

These rules are simple enough but many foreigners don't pay. The Department of Finance and the BIR should go after these well-paid tax cheats.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

SON: Dad, what's the difference between dinner and supper?

DAD: When we eat out that's dinner. When your mother cooks our food, that's suffer.

Choices

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

WHY am I not surprised?

Our headline says Erap has asked his pal, Fernando Poe Jr., to run in 2004 and the local King of Action Movies is seriously considering it. He has been going around the country trying to sound off the public on it. Erap himself is being coy, but the thing apparently is already in the bag. FPJ has long resisted invitations for him to join politics, but to restore his friend's honor, such as it is, *walang iwanan hanggang sa dulo ng walang hanggan*, he might just do it.

Frankly, though, I don't know why Erap himself wouldn't want to run again. The only thing that can really stop him is his health. His case seems to be going nowhere, no small thanks to a government that seems more earnest about appeasing his legions than convicting him. SWS and Pulse Asia may show Erap plunging in esteem in the eyes of his people, but come election time, none of that will matter. He runs, and the circumstances of his downfall notwithstanding, or probably because of them—the storyline is one of death and resurrection, humiliation and vindication, a surefire formula for a movie, or presidential campaign, whichever comes first—and he would be one very formidable opponent.

But FPJ running clearly does better. If I remember right, the only time Zamboanga and Muslim Mindanao saw eye-to-eye was over the prospect of FPJ coming over to negotiate for the release of the Abu Sayyaf hostages some years ago. Even the Abu Sayyaf thought it an inspired idea, and were only too eager to see him. Who knows what might have happened if he had done so? Robin Padilla went instead, and the rest is obscurity.

I was about to say I will make another fearless forecast, but there is nothing fearless about it. It's common sense. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may mount the most expensive electoral campaign this country has ever seen, but if her opponent is FPJ, she will learn only one thing. Namely, what it means to be at the receiving end of the famous rat-tat-tat-tat-tat *suntok* of Ang Panday and Daniel Barrion combined.

All of which spells disaster for the nation. But one Ms Macapagal herself has been helping lay the groundwork for. If it's a grave she's facing, it is one she herself has dug. Unfortunately, it's one for the nation too.

I said before that Ms Macapagal's path to power was her own path to ruination. She came to power on the wings of one thing, which, not unlike that of Erap, was show biz. She ended up last when she first ran for senator in 1992 and first when she ran for senator again in 1995. The amazing reversal of fortune did not owe to any issue she stood for or any crusade she carried out in those three years, it owed to an inspired image change. From a staid economist, she transformed into the Nora Aunor of Philippine politics, courtesy of Dante Ang's posters making her out to be a movie star of the Regal and Viva variety.

Ms Macapagal would retort later, during the height of "Edsa III," when Erap's charisma was being bruited about, that she didn't lack for it either, if the results of the vice-presidential race were anything to go by. She trounced the opposition, which included Edgardo Angara, in 1998. True, but that "charisma," which originated from Ang's antics, worked only in competition with non-showbiz personalities. In competition with show-biz ones, indeed ones with the mythical stature of Erap and FPJ (and lest we forget, there's always Noli de Castro, the fellow who left the rest of the field biting his dust in the last elections), it wouldn't work at all. Not for her, anyway.

She hasn't made things better there since becoming President. She has intensified what has seemed like a very successful formula, diving in the reefs of Palawan and climbing the ash-covered slopes of Pinatubo to show all and sundry that, though small, she can plumb the deepest sea and scale the highest mountain. Alongside this of course, her picture has materialized in the P200 coin, she has become the Ina ng Bayan in advertisements, and her posters are mushrooming in the rain. It's show biz all the way.

She may think this will do wonders for her, but all this does really is to deepen the culture of personality, or blur the lines between show biz and politics that has been happening over the last decade or so. That cannot be good for her in a fight against popular show-biz personalities. It plays right into their alley. It doesn't tell voters that popular isn't always good, or even responsible. It doesn't tell voters that show-biz people are better off winning audiences in movie houses than supporters in the polling houses. It doesn't tell voters that there's a difference between real life and the movies, the dead guy gets up at the end of the movie, the dead guy stays dead in real life.

Another movie star makes it to the presidency, and truly it may be time to think of settling in other shores. A thing, not quite incidentally, that has gone from bad to worse since I sounded the alarm on it last year: Even people I never expected to give up are packing up. If FPJ should win—and I have very little doubt he will if he runs—it will have gone past tragedy to farce. From Rizal and Bonifacio to Erap and FPJ: The country will have undergone its complete metamorphosis.

I know that that argument will be used by Ms Macapagal's boys to conscript the sane to support her on pain of something like this coming to pass. But they themselves are the ones who are making it hard for the sane to do so. They're the ones who're turning it into a choice between one show-biz personality and another. The choice comes to something like that, whom are you going to pick?

A movie star who wants to become a President, or a President who wants to become a movie star?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Test kite

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

THE RUMOR about actor Fernando Poe Jr. being groomed for the presidential election in 2004 has been making the rounds of the rumor mills for the past few months. It comes as no surprise that the rumor would break into print. Most people who heard the rumor shook their heads and reacted with both dismay and helplessness.

The rumor apparently originated from the die-hard camp of deposed President Joseph Estrada and it was stoked into flames by the charged political atmosphere in which senior politicians, led by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, are widely perceived to be positioning themselves for advantageous terrain in 2004. In this milieu, all sorts of configurations are possible but we must warn that the situation is so fluid that it is futile to make an early prediction of who is running for what in 2004.

Through a spokesperson, Poe said he "is not interested in politics" and "he has no experience," but his friend, Joseph Estrada said Poe could still "change his mind." The truth is that Estrada and others closely identified with him have flown a kite to test the public's reaction to the outrageous and ridiculous idea. In some provinces, Estrada loyalists have been sounding out local leaders on the possibility of Poe running for the presidency mainly on the basis of popularity without a party apparatus. This scenario is a replication of the Estrada experience in which he used his popularity, built on his movies, as the vehicle to the presidency rather than a party machine.

After the ignominious exit of Estrada from the presidency, the results of elections in which show-biz celebrities ran for public office have been mixed. Some have been elected, and some have lost. Poe has absolutely no experience in pubic office; Estrada had political experience as mayor of San Juan and as senator before he took on the presidency.

The disastrous performance of the short-lived Estrada presidency, ravaged by gross incompetence and corruption, is believed to have taught the Filipino people the lesson that their experiment in entrusting the nation's leadership to a scarcely educated person who hated to work and to read more than one page of text was a costly experience. It put paid to the argument, advanced by romantic academics, that an ignorant man can run the country and help the poor better than the so-called "elite"—meaning those with reasonable education and political and bureaucratic experience.

Estrada, who undoubtedly is casting about for a candidate more congenial to his standards for the presidency, cannot go beyond his show-biz milieu as a recruitment ground. He is not at home with institutionalized bureaucracy and party structures—which he scorns. He has an inferiority complex and distrusts officials and politicians working within the rules and framework of institutionalized politics and governance. Poe is a bosom friend, part of his inner *barkada*, and shares the "*pare*" culture with him.

This leads many to ask, and this question makes a lot of sense: If Estrada, with his shortcomings, failed, what can Poe give to the presidency to make him a success or enable him to solve complex problems without the intellectual equipment and political experience needed for the most demanding and crushing job in the nation?

At least Poe has the humility to admit his shortcomings, but the problem is that the notion is being pounded into his head that popularity built on the world of fantasy and make-believe is sufficient to win votes, including even possibly a landslide. Many people are afraid that the numerous poor may again be seduced to vote for a popular man who identifies himself with them, either through bogus rhetoric or through the spell cast by film.

Maybe we burned our wings like a moth diving into the fire after the Estrada experience. But if some people, including Estrada, are pushing for an Estrada clone to run for the presidency, then we are staring at symptoms of at least two things. First, the poor and even many in the middle class are looking for a messiah; and, second, in the search for a messiah, people are considering recruiting the messiah not from the traditional recruitment field of politics but from even the show-biz world, where fantasy substitutes for reality. Poe, like Estrada before him, may mesmerize us by imitating reality. But down the road, the spell is broken as their shortcomings and inadequacies collide with problems that do not yield to charisma for solution.

The fact that Estrada won a large plurality on the basis of charisma suggests that we have gone over the brink to inhale opium, hoping it would drive away the increasingly complex problems not only of national rejuvenation but also of development. Poe would be another dose of opium-smoking. The Estrada phenomenon is a symptom of the breakdown of political institutions from which politics and governance are organized. They include the parties, the legislature, the bureaucracy and the judicial system.

Because these institutions are either shattered or damaged, they no longer suffice to provide the recruits for political leadership up to the presidency. The recruitment field has expanded to the artificial and mythical world of entertainment and fiction. The expansion of the recruitment field is a sign of despair in the search of good leadership. If people are driven into the entertainment world in this search, and all we can crank out are the likes of Estrada, then we might have to ask ourselves if it is time to close our schools as training ground for our leaders. Then, let's divert our children to entertainment—the new path to political power.

Pinoy humor and stinking toilets

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"MARITESS vs. the Superfriends" is an animated cartoon on the misadventures of Maritess, Pinay domestic in the most incongruous of places, the Hall of Justice, for the most incongruous group of employers—Wonder Woman, Aqua Man, Superman, Batman and Robin, Flash and the Super Twins, collectively known as the "Superfriends."

It starts off with Maritess being fetched from her island home by an employer she cannot see, because it's Wonder Woman riding her invisible jet. Once in the Hall of Justice, Maritess must endure other indignities, such as being subjected to "sexual harassment" from Superman who can see right through her clothing, to putting up with the Super Twins' libidinous pet monkey, to keeping her thoughts to herself about Batman being actually gay. ("Why does he hang around with that young boy Robin?")

And why, Maritess asks, should she be deported after her visa expires when Superman, who is an alien not just from another country but from another PLANET, can stay all he wants in the States? "Maybe it's because he's white?" she asks.

"Maritess vs. the Superfriends" is the brainchild of Filipino-American stand-up comic Rex Navarrete in collaboration with animator Dino Ignacio (take a look for yourself at fractalcow.com). Premiered on the Web last May 25, the cartoon is based on a routine that Navarrete first performed in 1997, and according to Navarrete's website (rexnavarrete.com), the cartoon has been getting hundreds of hits from both long-time fans and trawlers from all over the world. I first heard of Maritess from Jim Paredes, whose mission it is to alert friends to cool sites, but it took my son to get the site up and running.

* * *

BORN in Manila and raised in Cavite, Batangas and South San Francisco, Navarrete began his career as a stand-up comic in 1989, when as a 19-year-old student, he heeded a teacher's advice to take his comedy public. Counting as his early comic inspirations "Tito, Vic and Joey" in Manila and Eddie Murphy in the States, Navarrete has come out with three comedy CDs: "Badly Browned," "Husky Boy" and "Bastos," the last under his own label Kakarabaw Productions, which can be ordered online. His website says he's also set to appear in the show "Stateside" over The Filipino Channel (KTSF Channel 26 in the San Francisco Bay Area).

Scrolling through Navarrete's website guest book, it's evident not all those who've visited with Maritess or with other characters in other animated cartoons he's created think poking fun at Pinoy foibles is so funny. In an interview, he advises the politically correct to lighten up, pointing out that sending up their ethnic roots has been the route of most successful American comics. "Our struggles become our comedy," he says.

Though he's built a career around the funny aspects of being Fil-Am, Navarrete bares his solid Pinoy heart by including in his website two tributes to his maternal grandparents who both passed away last year. So we know it's more out of fondness than scorn that he bids visitors farewell by declaring: "Tik kir bikus aykir."

* * *

A FRIEND in the airline business says arrivals are picking up, though another friend in the travel field says most of these travelers are part of conventions and conference groups, rather than individual tourists.

But even if Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon really succeeds in enticing foreigners to come visit, he'll still have a hard time convincing them to see more of the country unless the private sector gets on the ball and cleans up its act.

On a recent visit to Laoag, what was an otherwise tranquil trip was marred by irritants that cropped up even before we left Manila. For starters, there were the confusing and contradictory dealings with the reservations office of the bus line. First, one clerk said we needed to pay only P100 as reservation fee and pay for the rest of the seats at the time of departure. Then, a few days later, we got a call from the bus company saying we would have to pay for all our reserved seats that day. At the bus station, we were told that as soon as the bus was filled up, we could leave as early as 7 p.m. But that evening, even if all of us made it a point to be there by 7, we ended up waiting until 9 p.m., mainly because of a difference of opinion among the ticketing clerks, the bus conductor and us. It took all of our histrionic skills to bamboozle the conductor into leaving. If we thought that reserving a bus for our exclusive use would buy us some privileges, we were wrong.

* * *

SUCH unprofessional conduct was certainly disappointing, especially since the bus line has existed for decades and in fact holds a virtual monopoly on the Manila-Laoag route. Or maybe that's the reason for the sloppy way it does business?

Anyway, we'd nearly forgotten the pre-departure mess until we made a stop-over at the bus depot in Pangasinan. We found a two-tiered restroom system: free and pay restrooms. The stench emanating from the free restrooms was enough to drive us to the smaller "pay" restrooms, to enter which we had to pay P5 each. But though clean and reeking of antiseptic, the restrooms were hardly our money's worth. For one, the locks on the stall doors were broken, there was no toilet paper in the stalls and no paper towels nor soap by the wash basins. Where was the money going?

Minor complaints, perhaps, but still enough to rile this traveler who was already strongly motivated to make the 10-hour trip. Would a tourist put up with such shabby treatment, I wonder.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Culture in food misread

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

IT is now unfashionable to believe the late Teodoro Agoncillo's statement that there was no Philippine history before 1872 (the execution of Gomburza), because most of what passed for our history was written by Spaniards and an assortment of foreigners. For lack of an authentic Filipino voice in these biased sources, Agoncillo said that we had the history of Spain in the Philippines, not Philippine history. While it is true that Filipinos were too occupied with survival to bother writing about themselves and their times, this does not mean that they are lost to history. There are ways to turn a biased source around to coax out the Filipino voice hidden in what the late William Henry Scott aptly described as "cracks in the parchment curtain."

Jose Rizal did this in 1890 when he annotated the 1609 "Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas" by Antonio de Morga. Most memorable of Rizal's annotations is when Morga said that the Filipinos ate and relished rotten beef and stinking fish. Rizal explained that the stinking fish was not rotten, it was fermented. He added that while the smell was an assault on Morga's senses, this "stinking fish" was actually *bagoong*, a staple in our cuisine. Rizal did not write a history of the Philippines, but he was the first to read and interpret it from a Filipino point of view.

I am fascinated by travel accounts of the Philippines by foreigners particularly descriptions of food and eating where a clash of cultures begins. Filipino hospitality includes offering a tourist delicacies like: *balut*, *azucena* (dog) and *kamaru* (crispy mole cricket). Since food to one person is poison to another, it is in food that I find the most to think about.

G.J. Younghusband, a British officer, was in a Spanish-run hotel in Manila in 1898 and was not impressed by the food of which he left a very graphic description. It is the most amusing restaurant review I have found. Definitely a type that will never come from Doreen Fernandez, but may with more humor proceed from Clinton Palanca's gastronomic musings. Younghusband broke any and all romantic ideas I had gotten from pictures of old Manila as he wrote:

"The perennial menu consisted of soup, very thin and greasy, and presumably made from boiled dish cloths. As *pièce de résistance* came a portion of venerable cow, the father or mother of all cows, such original nutriment as it possessed having first been boiled out of it, and possible sold as soup elsewhere. Next would come a nameless horror, which a confiding public was invited to believe to be an *entrée*; this article from a purely archeological and geological point of view had some interest, and it might be of value to [a museum]...for exhibition. Some people maintain that it was a fromesky made of fragments of Egyptian mummy; others that we were merely using up the broken remains of Montojo's fleet. For myself I prefer to keep an open mind and leave conjecture to the scientists."

Boiled dish cloth? Fragments of mummy? Could this be *ropa vieja* (literally, old rag) that is still served today? This resembles *nilagang baka* reheated so many times the meat disintegrates into strips and the soup turns thick and oily. It could have been recycled food we all endured in school canteens—fried chicken today becomes tomorrow's *tinolang manok*. The possibilities are endless for an imaginative cook. Analyzing this century-old review made me feel like an archeologist trying to figure out the past from broken pieces of earthenware and pieces of bone.

Younghusband continues:

"Occasionally, a venerable fish was added to the feast, and the banquet closed with a weird dish called *carey*, which consisted of small chunks of some defunct bird, by courtesy understood to be a fowl, floating about in liquid train-oil slightly spiced."

Chicken curry or *kare-kare*? If it was curry, where could he get Indian food in 1898 Manila? Did Younghusband stay at the Fonda Francesca de Lala Ari, the hotel mentioned in the "Noli me Tangere"? This was owned by an Indian named Lala Ari and I presume that despite its pretensions to French service, they had chicken curry on the menu.

Younghusband complained that, "No butter seems to be obtainable, if one excepts a yellow horror reputed to be manufactured from old cocoa-nut chips, and the sight of which would certainly give any right-minded cow delirium tremens." At the time butter was imported in cans from Australia. I'm not a century old but cakes and *ensaimadas* in my childhood were made with canned Brun butter from Australia. Perhaps Younghusband was given lard with yellow coloring of a type my father sold in his pre-war *sari-sari* store.

From May 1898 Manila was under a US blockade and food supplies were scarce and expensive. More significant is that Younghusband was all praises for the Union Restaurant in Malolos, Bulacan, then the capital of the First Philippine Republic. Before his audience with Emilio Aguinaldo, our food reviewer raved over a first-class omelet, Oxford sausages and café au lait in Malolos. While Manila was enduring a famine, all the gastronomic goodies were in Malolos. No wonder they had that legendary banquet of Sept. 29, 1898. What does all this say about this little-known period in our history? A lot.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Not yet, Deany, not yet

COMMENTARY

Sylvia L. Mayuga

READERS with an eye for literary gems may remember ne commentary "Globalism and nationalism in a time of terr " by Dean Jorge Bocobo on this page last November.

With broad strokes, he had drawn the late great 20th c tury in elegiac mood: "The century in which we were b n but which we shall never visit again, except in dreams and history. It has gone to sleep with its World Wars and its Cold Wars, with its nuclear cataclysms... its wars of national and sexual liberation...its dictatorships of Left and Right, and all t banished, vanquished isms."

Situating the Philippines' first sovereign decades on global canvas, he reflected on how a Filipino national still in the throes of acquiring a necessary depth of s knowledge now finds itself in a "world (that) has been ever transformed" by Sept.11, 2001.

"Bin Laden has become the catalyst for an unpreceden coalition of countries," he wrote, "because what destroyed...belonged not just to America but to the wh world...what (was) threatened not just a prosperous Am can present but a possible and highly desirable future for world, of which America is merely the prototype." Then mentioned the hope of optimists the world over: "Perha the present crisis will crystallize a new consensus on glob human society."

That dream—"one world, one race, one democrac " melding divisive national isms together, perhaps realigni our own presently contentious variety—made it easy cheer Deany Bocobo back then. But alas, time, the ultima judge, has told—and America as prototype for world culture becomes an uneasy proposition indeed, provoking this answering reflection six months later.

It's true that Washington, D.C.'s first sally into uniting the world against mindless terrorism gave George W. Bush his ritual 15 minutes in heroic aura. For a while there, he was Mr. World Popularity with a down-home accent, capping the first flush by having Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin over for a barbecue reception in Texas, followed soon after by dramatic reduction of the nuclear arsenals of two ex-rival superpowers.

"If such nations and peoples, who have waged such titanic wars upon each other and rivaled each other for world supremacy, can unite in a common cause, then perhaps there is less cause to be pessimistic than the Cassandras would like it portrayed," wrote Bocobo. Sadly, global photo-ops (formal signing of what was already a done deal in the Clinton years) could not arrest progressive tarnishing of hope in 9-11 as a turning point for the planet.

For one, even that reduction of arsenals still leav enough nukes to blow us all to kingdom come 30 to 50 tim over. And, even as ex-ideological rivals decrease their har ware, the genie unbottled by America in World War II continues to roam the world. Its "balance of terror" defined the postwar world in Cold War. Now it looms over the planet more stealthily, on scales much smaller but just as deadly, in nations friendly and unfriendly to the progenitor of nuclear terror, now chairman of a "war on terrorism."

The Nuke Club today includes Iraq, Iran,

Libya and North Korea, dubbed "rogue states" by America, its staunch European ally France, its strategic but warring Siamese twins India and Pakistan, its behemoth new trading partner China, and its problematic protectorate in the oil-rich Middle East, Israel, with its estimated, undeclared 100 missiles. Fears of what more horrors an Israel led by Ariel Sharon is capable of, and yet another outbreak of nuclear terror in India and Pakistan over Kashmir, make us ever less sanguine every day.

Meanwhile the European element of the war equation frays progressively, as Britain and France express more of their druthers about the style and content of what has quickly become America's unilateral definition of that "war on terrorism." Indeed, time has revealed that leadership of such a war, as France, Germany and Japan are as well increasingly peaked at Bush's stubborn refusal to arrest global warming in a necessary faster clip through the Montreal Protocol, the global nature of his war on terrorism also seems to be eroding.

A recent Newsweek article (May 13, "Milking 9-11 for Dollars") reports how the-business-as-usual ethos in Washington, D.C. is further gnawing at Bush's bid for global moral leadership. "It's amazing what lobbyists and politicians are selling as crucial to the war on terror," writes Adam Piore. In the rush to cash in on the good old US military/industrial complex's expansive new war, weapons of choice now include: California dates "essential to starving Afghans;" road-signs "to better direct panicked citizens out of besieged cities;" a $3.5-billion subsidy for peanut farmers to "strengthen America's national security;" more millions in subsidy for "the security of the national milk supply." The biggest winner of 9-11 has of course been the Pentagon—"with defense spending rising to $33 billion last year—the largest increase since the Reagan era."

And so the dream lives, Deany, but it doesn't seem like human nature is about to change under the American imperium any time soon. The emperor still has no clothes and his close-in oil and nuclear friends at home and abroad aren't telling. Looking for a prototype for our one-world dream would probably do better, as it has always done, at the source—the global in the local, the universal in the particulars of world history in every nation, especially when captured in music. Ever heard Sufi chanting? To die for.

Sylvia L. Mayuga is a veteran freelance writer on historical and cultural issues.

THEY SAID

Long wait

"Completing the requirements for my degree 33 years after finishing my principal education marks my longest 'post-production schedule.'"

—Filmmaker Steven Spielberg, after finally completing his bachelor's degree

Police incompetence

"Little Dexter had to die to dramatize the gross incompetence of the police in handling crisis situations."

—Akabayan Rep. Etta Rosales on the bungled rescue operation of a hostage victim in Pasay

Church cleanup

"What kind of religion shall we preach, a religion that just pretends to want to change things but will not sweep the dirt out of its own house?"

—Fr. Robert Reyes on the sex scandal faced by the Church

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Misappreciated pay increases

'VE spent 15 years of my life eaching at the Francisco Benitez Elementary School in Makati City. chose this profession despite obections from my parents who, ronically, are both public school eachers.

Despite the comparatively low ncome vis-à-vis the not-so-easy ask of teaching while studying the essons, I stayed on because I really ove to teach. I managed to raise ny three kids with my P2,000 take-iome pay through other sources ike easy loans. With the recent nove of Congress to increase eachers' take-home pay to P3,000, iowever, I find it more difficult to nake both ends meet because this educed my chances to get loans. Vorse, Congress plans to increase t again to P4,000! I see the intenions of our good congressmen, but iow am I going to produce my hildren's tuition fees with limited bility to avail of easy loans? How am I going to pay unscheduled expenses like hospital bills?

I managed with P2,000 and I am trying my best to survive with P3,000. But P4,000, please...! We appeal to our congressmen, please do not make our lives more miserable.

—**AMELITA V. OLORES, 33 Kakarong St., Makati City**

* * *

TEACHERS are supposed to have a take-home pay of P3,000 which was just recently increased from P2,000.

Now comes the problem. In emergencies, teachers resort to institutions like the Manila Teachers for the needed loans. Teachers could even get additional loans even though they still had outstanding loans. But when their take-home pay reaches the 3,000 bracket, they are no longer qualified for what they refer to as "re-loan" facilities, which have become common sources of funds to cope with a teacher's unforeseen emergencies.

We know our lawmakers mean well. But our appeal to them is to increase our basic pay but not diminish our capacity to get loans from the institutions available to us. This can help us a lot.

Last March, almost all lending institutions including Manila Teachers suspended their lending due to the delayed release of IBM remittances. A lot of teachers suffered from that event because they depend on such quick loans especially during times when they are needed.

Please do not reduce our capacity to get these loans. If this happens, teachers will be pushed farther toward resorting to loan sharks and their services like the "5-6" sort of usurious loans. We implore the legislators to find better ways to increase our basic pay.

—**ROBERT C. FORDAN, Tondo High School, Manila**

Arrogance and hypocrisy of opposition senators

THE "DIRTY DOZEN" in the Senate and the "Martilyo Gang" in the House have both adjourned their respective rump sessions. Television and radio surveys show that almost 70 to 80 percent of the public disapprove of the opposition's "takeover" of the Senate and the comedy act of the minority congressmen in the House. What arrogance on the part of the opposition to resort to these outlandish and childish acts. What an embarrassment and shame they have brought to this country.

While the Drilon-led administration senators had the dignity and the decency to apologize to the nation for the Senate stalemate, the opposition through Senators Vicente Sotto III, Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Gregorio Honasan, Edgardo Angara, Sergio Osmeña III, Blas Ople, among others, continue to mock the public and offend our sensibilities by exhibiting their brand of arrogance and hypocrisy on nationwide television. And what about Sen. John Osmeña, the master political opportunist? After having brought about the impasse and the crisis in the Senate, he had the gall to call a press conference and propose a conclave-type of voting to elect a Senate president. Filipinos do not deserve these kind of public officials.

—**FERDIE T. SIBAL, 18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LETTERS

DPWH maintenance needs no publicity

WHY does the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) publish stories on cleaning, declogging and retrieval of debris in the drainage laterals when the maintenance of such flood mitigating measures is a routine operation activity, rain or shine?

It appears that it is mainly for publicity purposes of the DPWH chief and his deputies to cover up obvious shortcomings like early manifestations of poor management, weak leadership, too much political interference in the promotion and assignment of regional directors and district engineers and the department's not so well-managed public relations.

Maintenance work is not news, it being a regular, routine activity of DPWH maintenance all the year 'round.

—**CONCERNED METRO MANILANS**

Are teachers prepared for BEC?

BURIED in the background of the ongoing national debate on the merits and demerits of the restructured Department of Education curriculum is the critical role of teachers—main implementers that can spell success or failure of the curricular charge—has not been highlighted.

In a hierarchical DepEd, the proposed curricular change has been traditionally dictated by top-level policymakers and specialized education officials in the central office. Thus, the participatory approach in curricular development is rarely adhered to. This only means that Filipino teachers are not empowered and that school officers tend to regard the teachers more as "conveyors" than designers of curriculum. Consultation is minimal, and the same goes for the involvement of the various stakeholders in decision-making: hence, the lack of national consensus.

In fact, many predict that this latest curricular change will suffer the same fate as the continuous progression scheme spearheaded by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports in the 1970s. Logic points that it could even be worse since there is no pilot-testing in selected school divisions, and that DepEd officials pay no heed to public clamor for the Basic Education Curriculum's (BEC) deferment and instead, proceeded to go on a nationwide pilot-testing this school year. Many foresee that this will surely bring monumental failure.

In the various regional consultations among teachers that the Teachers' Network conducted in Baguio, Manila, Tacloban, Batangas, San Fernando and Pampanga in the last three months, there was overwhelming opposition from the ranks of the classroom teachers to the BEC, contrary to the "overwhelming support" given by various school administrators. In fact, many teachers are not even aware of the features of the revised BEC.

Teachers are unprepared to take on the BEC especially on the Makabayan (a cluster of subjects of Values Education, Social Studies, Home Economics, Work Education, Music and Arts). With the low priority given to these subjects, what happens to the humanistic dimension of education? Can we produce critically minded citizens with a deeper sense of social responsibility? There is also a need for intensive training on integration as a classroom strategy using a common theme that cuts across subject areas.

If we use the seminar-workshop conducted last summer by division supervisors as a gauge for the teachers' preparedness, then we can simply say that it is doomed to fail. The supervisors who prepared the teachers were also ill prepared to train them—most of them read the different texts distributed by the DepEd and they can't answer most of the questions asked by the teachers during the open forum. Besides, many well thought-out innovations are only good on paper but not when considered in relation to the actual classroom realities in the provinces.

Finally, what causes the poor quality of education in public schools is not largely due to curricular concerns. It is a combination of the government's low investment in education, overworked and underpaid teachers, dilapidated school facilities, the lack and poor quality of textbooks and the lack of continuous professional training of teachers in both subject content and methodology. Since the greatest single factor that will contribute to quality education is having creative and dedicated teachers, then the focus should be on improving the professional and personal qualities of teachers and giving them an adequate compensation package. As our Teachers' Network slogan puts it: "Education matters, good teachers make a difference."

—**RENE C. ROMERO, convenor, Teachers' Network c/o Philippine Normal University, Taft Avenue, Manila**

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

India, Pakistan ready to ease military tension

NEW DELHI—India and Pakistan Monday both indicated they were ready to de-escalate the military tensions on their borders, but each held the other responsible for making the first move.

Pakistan led the way by saying it would "reciprocate" a withdrawal of Indian forces from the frontier, sparking hope the neighbors' one million mobilized soldiers will go home without a fight.

"Once India starts withdrawing its forces we will reciprocate," foreign office spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan told a press briefing in Islamabad.

"We were obliged to send our forces to forward positions only in a defensive posture after India deployed its forces. We will reciprocate that particular gesture.

"I think it's a very desirable thing that should be done immediately."

However New Delhi said it was "premature" to talk of a withdrawal while Islamic militants are sneaking across the border into Indian Kashmir, a charge Islambad denies.

"You have a situation on the Line of Control (the de facto border between India and Pakistan in Kashmir) where there are continuous attempts by elements aided and abetted by the Pakistani state who violate the atmosphere of law and order in India," foreign ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao told reporters in New Delhi.

"Unless and until we see an abatement it is too premature to talk of military de-escalation."

The comments by the two sides follow an apparent recent thaw in India and Pakistan's frosty ties, with New Delhi announcing a series of measures to defuse the tense border standoff.

But Pakistan has insisted tensions will remain as long as the troops are in forward positions.

"So long as Indian forces are deployed in that offensive posture things can become difficult at any time," Khan said.

"Some decreasing of temperatures does seem to be in the air but the basic factor is that so long as the Indian forces are deployed at forward positions in offensive posture the situation will remain tense."

India has re-opened its airspace to Pakistani flights, withdrawn warships from the Arabian Sea and said it is arranging to send a new high commissioner (ambassador) to Islamabad.

Pakistan has also pulled its navy back from offensive positions but Khan said Islamabad had heard no further details on the new high commissioner.

He added that Pakistan has not sent any flights over Indian airspace since India's announcement a week ago.

India's concession, according to a Pakistani High Commission official in New Delhi, who would not be named, applied only to overfly rights.

As an indication of the easing tensions, however, police in Indian Kashmir have reported a sharp reduction in the artillery duels between troops from the two sides in the past few days.

At the same time, thousands of Indians soldiers who have been on a war footing at the frontier for the past six months have been allowed to go home on leave. Others are to be sent on study courses, defense officials have announced.

The daily bloodletting linked to a separatist rebellion against Indian rule in Kashmir continued, however, with police reporting five Muslim militants shot dead by the security forces in separate encounters overnight. *AFP*

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BOON TO CHINA

US investors turned off by SE Asia corruption

SINGAPORE—Corruption and protectionism in Southeast Asia are driving US companies in the region to relocate to China, according to a US business survey released Tuesday.

The American Chambers of Commerce (AmCham) poll of members in Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, showed half the companies planning to relocate were targeting China.

China was also the recipient of 64 percent of US companies planning expansion in the region.

The four AmChams represent an estimated 60 billion dollar investment in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) area.

"I think it's fair to say that many businesses have indicated the trend of investment is towards China," Singapore AmCham vice-chairman Stephen Monaghan said of the survey findings.

"I think that Asean governments should look at these results in terms of the level of dissatisfaction with local government institutions, the level of corruption and see they have some work to do if they are going to keep business here in the Asean region."

The AmCham survey, conducted by the Gallup Organization in April, showed optimism about profits, with more than half the companies expecting a profit increase this year, with a correlated expansion of business.

A third of the companies expected to increase the size of their workforce in 2002, compared to 16 percent considering reductions, while 62 percent saw an Asian economic recovery either in the second half of this year, or early next year.

But although the barometers for business in the region were strong, they failed to override the concerns.

AmCham managing director Nicholas de Boursac said dissatisfaction with corruption and protectionism was a consistent response from the four diverse economies polled.

"The principal findings show a very strong, positive outlook for growth in the region," de Boursac said.

"But they also highlight a key issue. That there are some serious matters some governments in Southeast Asia will have to address if they want to stem the transfer of foreign investment to China."

"This is particularly in relation to corruption issues, local protectionism and laws and regulations around the region. With the notable exception of Singapore, this was the very clear message."

Corruption has been raised as a problem in China, with a recent survey of expatriate businessmen by the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy ranking it ninth out of 12 Asian countries for corruption in its police and justice systems.

But AmCham said that in business, the reality was weighing the overall opportunities of one market against the other, and there was a definite trend for companies to look towards China.

In the Philippines, corruption was cited as a major problem by 92 percent of respondents, compared to 78 percent in Thailand and 38 percent in Malaysia.

It was not an issue in strictly regulated Singapore where the main concerns were a shortage of low-cost labor, and the high cost of housing.

Singapore's National Trades Union Congress, the umbrella union movement, earlier this week called for wage cuts, blaming the disappearance of 42,000 jobs in the past five years on companies moving elsewhere in Asia, particularly China, in search of cheaper labor.

Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

AFP

Germany still hunting down Nazi criminals

By Adam Tanner

HAMBURG, Germany—A defiant ex-Nazi who once had the power to mete out death rises in court to defend himself against charges of unspeakable horrors.

Such a scene has been repeated often since the Nuremberg trials first judged those responsible for World War Two. Generations later, such a trial is again under way in a Hamburg courtroom.

Former Nazi SS officer Friedrich Engel, 93, dubbed the "Butcher of Genoa", is the latest to answer charges of war crimes during the Third Reich. Experts say other geriatric Germans are likely to follow.

"Justice in the most severe cases demands that they still be tried even today," says Joachim Riedel, deputy head of Germany's central office hunting down Nazi war criminals.

"Those cases so gruesome, so brutal, especially in the persecution of the Jews, should be followed up forever."

Engel was convicted in absentia by an Italian court in 1999 for killing at least 246 Italian prisoners of war in four separate massacres.

He is now on trial in his hometown of Hamburg charged with ordering the murder of 59 Italian prisoners in May 1944 in revenge for an attack on a cinema for German soldiers. He has denied ordering the shootings and said he had been present at the killings only as a witness.

The court atmosphere is surprisingly relaxed given the severity of the charges. The judges address the accused as "Dr Engel"—he has a degree in education—and at the end of twice weekly morning proceedings he is free to go home.

With piercing blue eyes that still have no problem reading small text and a full head of white hair, Engel projects an intimidating image.

On the first day of the trial in May, he warned journalists to get out of his way or he would remove them with his walking stick. However, he did speak to Reuters, saying he regretted the past but that he was only following orders.

"In pure military matters, revenge killing is allowed," Engel said. "If I was a murderer, what was I doing living normally for 50 years among everyone else?"

"Why have the trial now?" he said. "I find it somewhat unfair . . . It is all very trying."

Problematic

Engel's attorney Udo Kneip said the death of many witnesses and fading memories so many years later make Nazi trials problematic today. But he said they would be justified for top figures such as Adolf Hitler's right-hand man Martin Bormann.

Bormann, who was born in 1900, is still on the mind of prosecutor Riedel, but Bormann's son, who is also called Martin, says there is no chance he is still alive.

"My father has been dead since 1945; it makes no sense to look for him," he told Reuters.

The son, who has long sought reconciliation with Nazi victims, said trials so long after the Nazi defeat are unlikely to put anyone behind bars but still make sense in some cases.

"You can make a trial but it is not possible to put them in jail because they are too old," he said. But "the verdict has a purpose in determining who is guilty."

Most historians believe Bormann senior died in 1945. He was sentenced to death in absentia at Nuremberg in 1946.

Although memories have faded, the passage of time has brought certain World War Two episodes into clearer focus as long-sealed archives are opened and other living war criminals unmasked.

"Much depends on political circumstances," said prosecutor Riedel. "Italy for example had long kept much material on German war crimes under lock and key.

Since World War Two, Germany has opened more than 100,000 Nazi-related cases resulting in 6,500 convictions, according to the Justice Ministry. In recent years the country has seen several prominent successes.

Last year a German court sentenced ex-SS officer Julius Viel to 12 years in jail for the World War Two murder of seven Jewish prisoners in early 1945 near the Theresienstadt concentration camp in what is now the Czech Republic. Another Theresienstadt guard, Anton Malloth, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The biggest fish among top Nazis who could still be alive is probably Alois Brunner, right-hand man to the Gestapo's "technician of death" Adolf Eichmann. He was in charge of the Drancy camp outside Paris where Jews rounded up in France were held before being sent to Nazi death camps.

Reuters

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Loya Jirga delegates angry over deadlock on key issues

KABUL—Delegates at Afghanistan's traditional assembly Tuesday threatened to head home in frustration at the deadlock over key issues which has dragged the meeting into a second day of overtime.

The more than 1,500 delegates had been scheduled to wrap up business on Sunday but there has still been no definitive agreement on the make-up of a national parliament and the key ministers in new president Hamid Karzai's cabinet.

A host of delegates complained about Karzai's proposal to put back a decision on the parliament until after the Loya Jirga, prompting a new proposal from the assembly's chair Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar to end the impasse.

The giant marquee, where the assembly is being staged, was little more than half-full for much of the morning as disillusioned delegates decided to spend their time drinking water and chatting outside. Some were even seen napping in corners of shade.

"I am tired like everyone else. We have to go home because we have things to do," said Asadullah of Bagram district, north of Kabul.

"If I could I would not stay a minute longer. We have lost our faith in the Loya Jirga because it has not taken up the main issues.

"We wanted it to create a parliament and a broad-based government, which has not happened."

But his fellow Bagram delegate Mohammad Tawoos disagreed, saying the assembly should put its trust in Karzai after electing him head of state, and leave him to decide on the key issues.

"Delegates have elected Karzai as their leader so we should allow Karzai to choose his cabinet and parliament himself," he said.

Mohammad Sharif, a delegate representing non-governmental organizations, said from the floor that many were thinking of simply leaving if things did not get moving.

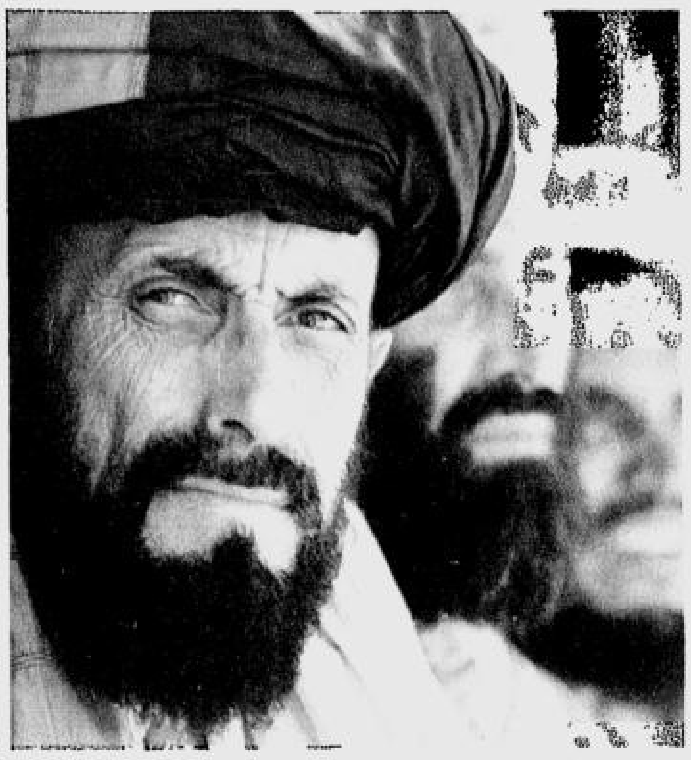
"We are very tired. No one is listening to us. You are keeping us here and wasting our time. If this continues we will walk out," said Sharif.

His feeling of frustration was echoed by Abdullah Ansari from northern Balkh province.

"Everybody is getting tired because we cannot reach the desired result. We expected to be deciding the destiny of our country.

"It was nice that we elected a head of state but it is sad that the other two main issues—the cabinet and parliament—were not decided here.

"We are talking about democracy. We should allow the Loya Jirga to decide the cabinet composition." *AFP*



AFGHAN delegates to the Loya Jirga wait for the start of the traditional debating assembly in Kabul, June 17. More than half the delegates to Afghanistan's Loya Jirga walked out of the grand assembly on Monday, angry about what they called delaying tactics aimed at avoiding key issues. REUTERS

More than 1M refugees return to Afghanistan

GENEVA—More than a million refugees have returned to Afghanistan, and the number is still rising, but international donations continue to lag behind urgent needs, the UN refugee agency said Monday.

"We've surpassed the 1 million mark, and now expect that up to 2 million Afghans could return home this year," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers. "Fresh contributions of funds and food aid are urgently needed."

Last week, Lubbers urged the European Union to give $94 million to bridge the funding gap and make it possible for returning Afghans to rebuild their lives.

UNHCR spokesperson Fernando del Mundo said that last Friday the EU contributed $1.86 million for the agency's Afghan refugee operations in Pakistan and $1.73 for Iran.

The agency needs $86 million to meet this year's target of $271 for operations in Afghanistan, del Mundo said.

In March, UNHCR and Afghan authorities launched a program to help Afghans return from Pakistan, Iran and other neighboring countries where some 3.7 million refugees were living after two decades of war and drought in their homeland.

UNHCR had expected 800,000 refugees to go home this year. But Lubbers said the operation had been more successful than expected.

In addition, 200,000 people have gone back independently, UNHCR believes, while 560,000 people who were displaced inside Afghanistan also have returned to their homes.

"The Afghan people require a smooth and rapid transition from relief to development to ensure they have jobs and don't find themselves in deeper poverty," Lubbers said.

Afghan families going back under the UNHCR program get a kit containing items such as blankets, tarpaulins, buckets, tools and other supplies. But the lack of funds means the agency has cut back on the construction materials it hoped to supply to 96,000 families to help them rebuild their homes.

Other UN agencies also have complained that funding problems are hurting their operations in Afghanistan.

The World Food Program has cut the food rations it supplies to many refugee families by a third.

UNHCR said the Afghan return program is set to be the largest organized by the agency.

Some 800,000 refugees returned to Kosovo after the end of the war there in 1999, while 1.5 million Kurdish refugees returned to Iraq after the 1991 Gulf War. *AP*

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US PRESIDENT Richard M. Nixon (left) touches base with Americans while departing for the 1972 Republican National Convention. Thirty years ago, on June 17, 1972, a break-in into an office in Washington's elegant Watergate building ended more than two years later with the resignation of the 37th president.

REUTERS/NATIONAL ARCHIVES

30 YEARS AFTER WATERGATE

Deep Throat still a mystery

WASHINGTON—And Deep Throat is . . .

For nearly three decades the identity of the confidential source who helped Washington Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein break open the Watergate scandal has remained a secret that the few in the know will not divulge.

That does not stop scores of Watergate buffs from giving their own opinions of who the insider was that helped bring down Richard Nixon's presidency and force him from office in disgrace in 1974.

On Monday, the 30th anniversary of the break-in at Democratic national headquarters in the Watergate complex that started the whole mess, guesses were still flying.

John Dean, Nixon's White House counsel whose congressional testimony started unraveling the cover-up that engulfed the president, came up with four names, one of which he said he was sure was Deep Throat.

Dean, who spent time in prison for his part in the cover-up, has experience in the Deep Throat game. Twice before, he announced his idea of who the source was, but got no confirmation. Neither was on his new list.

In addition, a group of University of Illinois journalism students has been working for three years to uncover Deep Throat using computer technology and old-fashioned research.

Last week, they released a list of seven names from the Nixon era, one of which they were sure was the one. While the project continues and the list is not final, the students said their choice was Patrick Buchanan, a Nixon speechwriter and three-time conservative presidential candidate.

All guesses received from Woodward and Bernstein what they call "deep silence."

The two say they will identify Deep Throat when he dies or releases them from their pledge of confidentially. Woodward, who remains at the Post as one of its top editors, said the last time they asked for such a release, their source refused.

"We have to protect sources and for 30 years we've kept our word," Woodward told a Watergate symposium on Monday.

"Our current sources know this is first principle with us and we're not going to budge on it," he said. "And frankly I'm uncomfortable about the discussion of who somebody's source might have been."

Speculation about Deep Throat and interest in Watergate peaks around major anniversaries of key events. The 30th anniversary of the break-in was no exception. *Reuters*

Rwandans confront genocide again for justice

By Fiona O'Brien

NTARAMA, Rwanda—The painted sign outside reads simply "Genocide site, about 5,000 people."

Nestled among lush fields of bananas and cooing wood pigeons, Ntarama's church bears witness to a horrific past that Rwanda will confront afresh in the months and years to come.

"The killing started here on April 14, 1994," says Pacifique Rutanga, a 46-year-old cultivator, one of the few to escape when Hutu extremists massacred thousands of ethnic Tutsis in this church compound in the centre of the tiny African country.

"People said to themselves that they would be protected, because no one would dare come into a holy place to kill. But people made holes in the walls, they threw grenades in. And once they had a way in, they came and used arrows and machetes and clubs strengthened with nails."

An estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were massacred in Rwanda in the 100 days from April to June 1994, when Hutu extremists incited a hate campaign against the Tutsis, a minority group which some Hutus felt had dominated the country for too long.

Today there are more than 100,000 genocide suspects locked up in Rwandan jails, many innocent, many guilty, all awaiting trial.

In the hope of emptying the overflowing cells, the government on Tuesday announces the relaunch of a traditional form of justice, aimed at letting ordinary Rwandans decide the fate of those who frenziedly shed blood throughout the land.

So-called Gacaca—meaning grass—courts will bring the culprits back to the places where they committed murder, letting the families of those they killed identify and judge them.

The process will bring back unbearable memories.

At the back of Ntarama's church, plastic bags more than a metre high are filled with bones. Someone's pelvis sticks out of one of the piles.

An identity card perches above the human remains. On the first line, the word Tutsi has been circled in black ink. Yaramba, a cultivator, was born in 1931. He would have been about 63 when someone hacked him to death because of the ethnic group into which he was born.

Walking forward, it is difficult not to step on the bones which line the dusty floor. There are flipflops, purses, piles of now empty clothes. Tiny shoes lie between the deserted pews, a girl's slip-on sandal, a baby's plimsoll.

It is hoped the gacaca experiment in mass justice will also spawn reconciliation in a country where everyone has dark stories to tell.

Judges are picked by the local community, voted in on the premise of impartiality and personal non-involvement. *Reuters*

PRESERVED corpses of some of the tens of thousands of ethnic Tutsis massacred at the Murambi school compound in southwestern Rwanda during the 1994 genocide, photographed June 17. Hutu extremists killed an estimated 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in Rwanda in the 100 days from April to June 1994.

REUTERS

US frowns on massive Israeli security fence

WASHINGTON—The United States took a dim view Monday of Israel's weekend start of construction on a massive security fence walling off the West Bank as President George W. Bush mulled his strategy to restart the Middle East peace process.

As Bush honed an imminent announcement of his plan, Washington voiced concern over a possible wider conflict, urging Iran, Lebanon and Syria to use their influence with Hezbollah to halt anti-Israeli attacks.

The White House and State Department, as well as First Lady Laura Bush, did not directly criticize Israel for the fence but called on the Jewish state to consider the consequences of its actions.

"I hope that we can continue to work peace in the Middle East," Mrs Bush said in rare comments on US policy in an interview with American Urban Radio Networks.

"I don't think that a fence will be some long-lasting sign of peace."

Her remarks echoed more explicit US frowns on the fence, offered by official spokesmen for the White House and State Department, who said it could adversely affect eventual border talks and would hurt the Palestinians economically.

"The decision is made by Israel, and as we have noted, Israel has the right to defend herself," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said.

But, "it's important for all parties to keep in mind the consequences of the actions they take and the need to continue working together toward two states living side by side in peace."

At the State Department, spokesman Richard Boucher went further, saying Washington would object to the fence if it were an attempt to delineate a border.

"The question of permanent status issues, like borders . . . need to be resolved through negotiation," he said, adding that the United States has "always opposed unilateral attempts to try to decide these issues." *AFP*

S. Africa apartheid victims to sue banks

SOWETO, South Africa—Victims of apartheid said on Monday foreign corporations and banks should pay billions of dollars for the "blood and misery" they caused by doing business in formerly white-ruled South Africa.

A team of US and South African lawyers plan to file a $50 billion class action suit in New York later on Monday against Swiss and US banks accused of backing the former apartheid regime.

Lulu Peterson, speaking at a monument to her famous brother Hector who died in a student uprising in 1976, is among the more famous names in the class action.

"My brother is remembered here and I am here today because I want to see justice," she told reporters at the Hector Pieterson monument in Soweto township, south of Johannesburg.

"We want reparations from those international companies and banks that profited from the blood and misery of our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters," she said.

The sombre venue for the announcement contrasted sharply with the drama of a Zurich news conference where hecklers, angry at what they saw as an attempt to smear Switzerland's good name, tried to shout down flamboyant US attorney Edward Fagan.

Fagan, who helped force Swiss banks into a $1.25 billion settlement for Nazi victims, said the suit sought reparations from UBS and Credit Suisse—the two biggest Swiss banks—as well as US-based Citicorp Inc., which owns Citibank.

It alleges the banks provided funds to prop up the apartheid government between 1985 and 1993, at a time when the regime was running out of cash because of United Nations sanctions.

South African lawyer Lizo Mbambisa said the banks kept the regime alive at a time when sanctions were starting to bite.

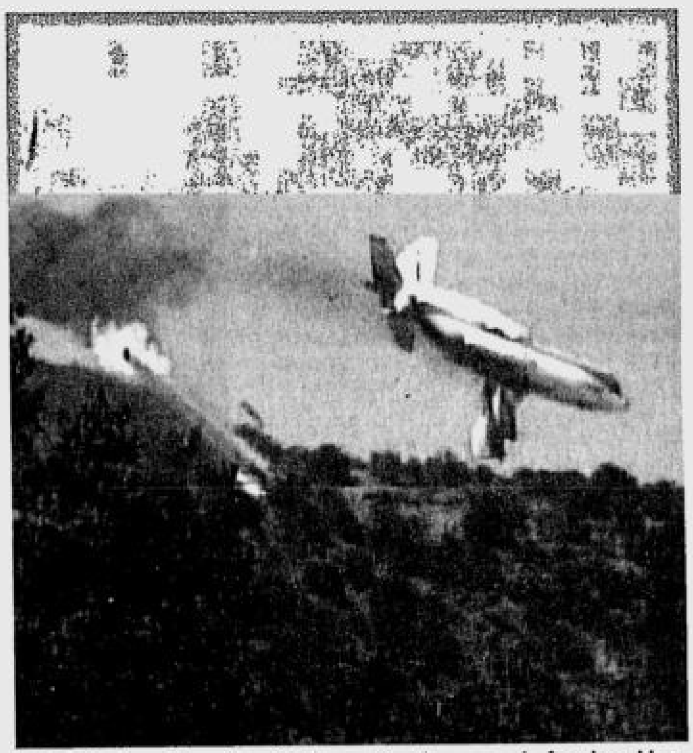
"Were it not for the conspiracy of these financial institutions and companies—men, women, children and families would not have suffered.

"Were it not for the conspiracy . . . South Africa would not be suffering today," Mbambisa said.

The lead plaintiff in the case is Sigqibo Mpendulo, a former activist with the Pan Africanist Congress whose twin teenage sons Samora and Sadat were killed by what he called apartheid security police during a raid on their home in 1993.

"They were looking for me but they killed my sons. I came the following day and found all my children dead," Mpendulo told Reuters. "The reason why I am here today is this is the only place that can heal me."

Mpendulo and Lulu Peterson were among the first to join the court action and lawyers said they expected thousands of victims to call a toll-free telephone hotline to join the suit. *Reuters*



A C-130 air tanker aircraft plunges to the ground after breaking up in the air, its wings folding up and falling off in a ball of flame, while fighting a fire near Walker, California, June 17. All three crewmembers were killed when the aircraft spun into the ground just moments later.

REUTERS

Forest ranger ordered held in Colorado blaze

DENVER—A US federal magistrate on Monday ordered a forest service ranger held without bail on charges of having ignited the largest wildfire in the history of the state of Colorado.

In northern California, an air tanker crashed while fighting a forest fire near the town of Walker and local media reported the three-crew members on board were killed.

Amateur video shot by a passerby showed both wings fall off the plane in mid-air before it plunged into the ground, sparking a new blaze. There was no immediate word on why the aircraft had come apart.

In Colorado, federal officials said Terry Barton, 38, confronted with inconsistencies in her statements, admitted starting what has become known as the Hayman fire 55 miles (90 km) southwest of Denver in an abandoned campground in the Pike National Forest.

Firefighters continued to battle the blaze, one of six that have devastated vast areas of drought-parched Colorado, while more evacuations were ordered after mid-day winds whipped up the flames.

Barton told investigators she had received a letter from her estranged husband and was so upset she burned it, setting off a conflagration that has consumed some 41,200 hectares and destroyed 25 homes.

Barton, a mother of two, entered the federal courtroom in Denver in handcuffs on Monday and spoke softly during the brief hearing.

Prosecutors asked that she not be released on bail and Magistrate Michael Watanabe set a bond hearing for Thursday. Under federal law a person charged with a crime can be held in custody for 72 hours at prosecutors' request.

US Attorney John Suthers said later prosecutors would ask the judge not to free Barton on bond because she might flee. "She would return to a community in which there is considerable hostility toward her, which adds to the possibility of her being a flight risk," Suthers said.

A veteran of more than 18 years with the service, Barton was on patrol June 8 helping enforce a ban on illegal campfires in the bone-dry forest.

She was charged with three criminal counts: setting fire to timber in a national forest, damaging federal property in excess of $1,000 and making false statements to investigators.

If convicted of all charges, she faces up to 20 years in prison and up to $750,000 in fines. A public defender was appointed to represent Barton who said she earned $1,485 a month from her government job.

Barton had originally said she smelled smoke and found that a campfire had spread into the forest. She said she tried in vain to put it out. *Reuters*

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Northern Luzon Bureau
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: inq_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

Southern Luzon Bureau
23 Aurora St.,Old Albay District
Legazpi City
Tel. No . (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

Visayas Bureau
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

Mindanao Bureau
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. Nos. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax no. (082) 2441771
E-mail:
pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

ECLEO CULT VIOLENCE

Wife's pa, ma, brod killed

CEBU CITY—Gunmen allegedly belonging to Ruben Ecleo's cult yesterday attacked the home of the parents of his slain wife in Mandaue City, killing her father, mother, brother and their neighbor.

According to sketchy reports as of press time last night, Alona Bacolod-Ecleo's parents—Elpidio and Rosalia—and her brother Ben were killed in the attack by at least seven heavily armed men. A neighbor was also reportedly killed.

Ruben Ecleo, principal suspect in the killing of his wife, is the subject of a massive police and military manhunt.

On Dinagat Island, 30 members of the White Eagle, armed wing of Ruben Ecleo's cult, clashed with lawmen out to arrest the cult leader at the family mansion in San Jose town at 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

There were no reports of casualties as of press time last night.

Tension rose on the island after it was confirmed that Ecleo was hiding inside the mansion.

More soldiers from the Philippine Army were set to sail for Dinagat last night to beef up the number of soldiers and policemen sent there to arrest Ecleo.

The troops were to bring along at least two V-150 tanks; two MG-520 attack helicopters had been placed on standby.

Ecleo, Supreme Master of the anti-communist group Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) was charged with parricide in a Cebu court in connection with the killing of his wife.

Alona's decomposing body was found inside a black garbage bag at a remote area of the southern Cebu town of Dalaguete in January.

Police said they had a good case against Ecleo, including traces of blood in his car in Cebu.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga police director, told the INQUIRER that heavily armed PBMA members were guarding Ecleo.

"They were sporting red bandanas and were armed with high-powered firearms," he said. ***Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: **PAGASA**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy with Rains	HI34° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 37° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 22°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 34° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/19/02

ROUNDUP

Parasites in cans

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Health has warned the public to closely examine the canned goods they buy from the market after finding that samples of a local brand contained worm-like parasites. "The very first thing to do is check the manufacturing and expiration date of the canned goods you are buying," DOH regional director Gerardo V. Bayugo said. Reports reaching the health department also said spoiled or contaminated sardines were being sold in the market although they have not expired yet. This prompted the DOH to advise the public to observe the canned goods before opening them and examine if these were not yet spoiled or were free from foreign contaminants like molds and parasites. ***Melanie J. Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

No-work day in Laguna

CALAMBA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo declared today a special non-working day in Laguna as she leads local official and residents in the observance of the 141st birth anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Rizal. The President is the guest of honor and speaker during the program prepared by the city government in honor of the national hero. The President will also distribute P350,000 worth of gifts to 1,000 poorest of the poor from Barangays San Jose, Uno, IV and VII of this city. The President is expected to focus her message on her poverty alleviation programs of food security, housing for the homeless, employment and education.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Equipment for farmers

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The provincial board of La Union last week approved a resolution authorizing the government to negotiate the purchase of more than P51 million worth of farm equipment to be charged against the province's share of tobacco excise taxes (Republic Act No. 7171) for this year. Intended to improve farmers' productivity and water supply in the province, the equipment include eight imported tobacco curing barns worth P26.756 million, two farm tractors, and P20 million worth of water pumps.

Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

New PPA in La Union

SAN FERNANDO CITY—The La Union Electric Company (Lueco) announced this week that the new purchased power cost adjustment of 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour shall be fully applied to the company's July billing from the National Power Corp. By presidential directive, Lueco reduced the PPA rate it charges to its customers from P2.77 per kwh to P2.04 per kWh in June. This translates to about P72.64 in savings to residential users consuming 100 kWh.

Gia Damaso-Dumo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Group opposes planned coal plant

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—An environmental group has formally submitted its opposition to the $210 million coal-fired power plant being pushed by State Power Development Corp. (SPDC) and the German firm STEAG-AG.

The Task Force Macajalar said the coal-fired power plant, which is to rise at the Phividec Industrial Estate in Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental, would adversely affect the health of the town residents.

In its manifestation before the recent meeting of the Regional Development Council (RDC) here, the TFM said coal-fired power plants contributed to the global warming phenomenon because of their emissions.

SPDC officials said the project would start only after the submission of the required documents has been complied with.

The RDC's Investment Coordinating Council has reportedly approved the project.

Ben Cyrus Ellorin, TFM spokesperson, said the approval was highly irregular because SPDC has yet to secure an Environment Compliance Certificate from the Environmental Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Some local government officials have expressed support for the coal-fired power plant, saying it was vital for the province's development.

Misamis Oriental Board Member Norris Babiera said the project did not threaten the environment.

Babiera recently came from a trip to Germany that was reportedly sponsored by STEAG-AG. ***Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Muslim youths in former war zone get new chance at education

By Grace Cantal-Albasin
PDI Mindanao Bureau

KAUSWAGAN, Lanao del Norte–The conflict between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) that repeatedly plagued Barangay Delabayan here has driven most of the residents to poverty. They could not even afford to send their children to a public school.

Delabayan, a hinterland village, was where the two biggest conflicts in Mindanao started.

In the 1970s, Juanito Macapaar, also known as Commander James Bond, led thousands of Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) rebels in Lanao del Norte against the military. His younger brother, Abdullah Macapaar, alias Commander Bravo of the MILF's 303rd Brigade, triggered the "all-out war" declared by the government against his group in 2000.

With their parents depending on a guerrilla-type of farming because of the conflicts, the village youths have also started losing hope in going back to school.

Slowly, they nurtured hatred against the perceived enemy—the government.

But starting this school year, at least 11 of them are school-bound. And people whom they tagged as enemies are providing funds for their schooling.

Scholars

A program, dubbed "I Love All Muslims (Islam)," has been launched by various religious sects and the Army's 402nd Brigade and the 26th Infantry Battalion to provide education to the 11 Muslim youths from Delabayan.

"I thought it was the end of it all, that we were hopeless and bound to find our destiny at a young age in marriage because there was nowhere and no one to go to," Norjalyn Didato, an Islam scholar, told the INQUIRER.

Norjalyn, 21, will be taking up an agroforestry diploma course at the Misamis Oriental School of Arts and Trade (Moscat) here.

The thought of leaving their village and living in a totally new place to learn did not prevent the Muslim youths from enrolling in Moscat in Claveria, Misamis Oriental.

The students from Delabayan while being interviewed. GRACE CANTAL-ALBASIN

"Christians are not strangers to us because we have Christian friends. We are not scared of enrolling in a densely Christian-populated school as well," Jasmin Moner said in the vernacular.

Preparations

Moner said they have prepared themselves for the reported anti-Muslim bias among their peers and some teachers, and that what they wanted was to finish their studies.

"We cannot stop them from thinking bad about us because of what the other Muslims have done like the Abu Sayyaf who sow terror among us. However, we want to show the Christians and the others that we are not (terrorist leader Osama) Bin Laden or the other terrorists that they fear. We are just like anybody else. We are human and we want education," Jonaipah Asi said.

While excited about finally going back to school, the Delabayan scholars said they would have been happier if all the youths in their village could continue their studies.

"I hope there are people out there who can help the remaining out-of-school youths in our barangay who wanted to go back to school," Jonaipah said.

Maj. Gen. Alfonso Dagudag, commander of the Army's 4th Infantry Division based in Cagayan de Oro City, said the Project Islam Foundation, which was launched to complement the scholarship program, was trying to find more partners to send as many Delabayan children to school.

"Now, we should be happy that they wanted to alleviate their social status. They can now tell the difference and it is very important that we stand by our promises to them, most of all to God," Pastor Alex Eduave, secretary of Project Islam, said.

Rehabilitation

Aside from providing education to the youths of Delabayan, Eduave said Project Islam has started a comprehensive rehabilitation program for the village.

"We know that providing the Delabayan residents the basic services deprived of them will bury their disillusionment of the government. I hope all of us can become part of the solution rather than just mouthing what is good for them," Eduave said.

Dagudag said the Army has also mobilized local government units, government agencies, non-government organizations and Delabayan residents to pool their resources for the planned rehabilitation program.

So far, Project Islam has built a water system, houses for the villagers and a mosque.

It also rehabilitated farm-to-market roads and provided sustainable livelihood by distributing grafted fruit trees.

Nephew defends bishop over mismanagement

LUCENA CITY—A close relative of the beleaguered Catholic bishop in Quezon defended the church official yesterday, saying not all priests from the Diocese of Lucena are against his leadership.

"From the total number of 29 priests listed in the letter, at least 10 priests have an ax to grind against my uncle. They maneuvered the rest of the priesthood to sow discontent in the diocese to get back at the bishop," Vergilio Profugo, a nephew of Bishop Ruben Profugo, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Asked of the probable motives, he said, "They were not given the choice assignments that they wanted in the diocese."

He said one of the priests whom he referred to was always surrounded by "bodyguards." When asked if he was referring to activist priest Raul Enriquez, he replied in the affirmative.

The INQUIRER tried to contact Enriquez at his parish in Barangay Lutucan, Sariaya, but he was out.

The younger Profugo, who works at City Hall, also denied that business ventures of the diocese were losing money.

"How could they tell? The gains from the operation of the printing press are subsidizing the other ventures of the diocese. It is not correct to say that all the businesses are in the red," he said.

The diocese operates several schools, a hospital, a radio station, a huge auditorium and a printing press, among many other businesses. Profugo said his uncle spent most of the time in Manila for medical checkup.

In an earlier interview, he said the entire family just laughed off the allegation that his uncle was involved in the financial mismanagement of the diocese.

"Besides, how true are those reports of financial mismanagement? All we have are malicious rumors," said Profugo, the son of the bishop's eldest brother, Nanding.

He branded the reports as "just plain dirty lies meant to discredit the good name of the bishop and his family."

Bishop Profugo had been the subject of a complaint letter of at least 29 priests that belong to the Diocese of Lucena. The letter was addressed to the Vatican representative in the country.

The main issue of the agitation was the alleged involvement of the bishop in a financial scandal that involved millions of pesos.

The recent assignment of Bishop Emilio Marquez of the Diocese of Gumaca to serve as "Bishop Coadjutor" at the Diocese of Lucena fueled the belief that the money scandal was true and that the appointment was meant to downplay the issue. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Where's GMA's promise of ₱5M for mangrove rehab?

CASIGURAN, Aurora—There's one promise from President Macapagal-Arroyo that hundreds of mangroves users here are not forgetting.

Before a big crowd that gathered for her first visit here on Sept. 20 last year, the President pledged to give P5 million for the protection, management and rehabilitation of 231 hectares of mangroves in Barangays Cozo, Lual and Marikit, according to Jose Bitong, manager of the Casiguran Coastal Environment Army (CCEA).

Consisting of trees and shrubs, mangroves are the natural feeding, breeding and nursery grounds of many fish and shellfish.

Other benefits are timber, charcoal and fuel wood. Mangroves also serve as natural shields of residents from typhoons and battering waves from the Pacific Ocean.

Hosting a large mangrove swamp with 24 species including the rare *Kandelia candel*, marine scientists have considered Casiguran as significant to provincial fisheries and biodiversity protection efforts.

"We heard her say loud and clear that she is going to give us that amount. I hope she has not forgotten her promise because many of us are still hopeful," Bitong told the INQUIRER.

According to him, the President's promise was in response to a resolution approved by the municipal council on behalf of the Casapsapan Mangrove Users Association (Camra) and the Cozo-Lual-Marikit Mangrove Users Association (Columar).

The council signed the resolution three days before the President arrived here. Bitong said leaders of the Dumagat tribe as well as settlers here lobbied for the approval of the resolution, which requested for a P5-million assistance.

The council has not passed a new resolution to follow up on the President's pledge or to urge her to help in the immediate release of the fund, it was learned.

"I'm not saying that the President has no word of honor. Perhaps she is just too busy attending to so many problems of the country or maybe, funds are scarce. Or our place is too far," Bitong said.

Casiguran is about four hours by bus from Aurora's capital of Baler. The capital is almost seven hours from Metro Manila.

Despite the waiting, he said Camra and Columar have banded under the CCEA to stop the illegal cutting and the unsustainable use of mangroves in the town.

According to the European Union-funded Aurora Integrated Area Development Project, the mangroves in Casiguran are "threatened by private tenure being allowed through tax declaration."

Last January, the CCEA compelled the Aurora Electric Cooperative to pay P30,000 for illegally cutting 50 mangrove stands to give way to electric posts in Cozo. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

INQUIRER Northern Luzon
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◎ Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Farmers pin hopes on hybrid rice

By Anselmo Roque
Science City of Muñoz

ASK farmers how they fare in their rice production efforts and their ready answer will most likely be they are not making big profits from their backbreaking toil.

They will also say, without hesitation, that if there is only a quick way out, they will rather give up farming and work somewhere else or engage in other endeavors.

At best, the net return they can get from rice farming using the same technology they have been applying for a long time is a little over P18,500 a hectare of rice field. Considering that rice farming is carried out in at least four months, that's an income of P4,625 a month.

In another vein, records indicate that for the last 30 years, the country had been self-sufficient in rice for only 12 years.

It meant that the country had spent a tremendous amount of money in importing rice to supply the staple food to the country's growing population.

In 1996, for example, the country produced 11.3 million tons of palay (unhusked rice) from 3.6 million hectares of rice land.

That same year, because of the shortfall in production, the country imported 565,000 tons of rice equivalent to 870,000 tons of palay.

In 1998, because of the decrease in production, importation of rice reached over a million tons.

By 2025, the country will need to produce 40 to 50 percent more rice than what it is producing today, experts said. That's because the population by then will be more than several millions way above the 100-million mark.

At present, the yield level of the best in-bred rice variety is not improving. In fact, it has remained the same since 1970.

Turnaround

Can there be still hope for a turnaround in increased rice production? Can farmers be enticed to have a new vigor in rice farming? How about attaining self-sufficiency in rice production, considering that the area devoted to rice farming in the country is declining due to land conversion?

Can there be another "miracle rice" just like what happened in the 1960s when the impending shortfalls in rice production in Asia were averted?

There is, if we go by the pronouncements of officials and certain experiences, a dramatic improvement in rice production during the last few years. Reports say that by 2004, the country may be self-sufficient in rice and that farmers will have bigger harvests.

The key to these expectations is the hybrid rice.

The hybrid rice program in the country is getting much support because it is projected to increase productivity and create new jobs.

Under this program, the hybrid rice planting targets will cover 135,000 hectares this year, 200,000 has. in 2003, and 300,000 has. in 2004.

PRESIDENT Macapagal is shown the hybrid rice variety during a visit to the PhilRice in the Science City of Muñoz recently.
ANSELMO ROQUE

President Macapagal-Arroyo ordered the formation of hybrid rice action teams for each province in the country. The team is composed of agriculturists, agrarian reform and irrigation officers, and representatives of the National Food Authority and of stakeholders from the farming and business sectors.

Ms Macapagal transferred the supervision of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) from the Department of Agriculture to the Office of the President. She designated PhilRice as the primary government agency responsible for the hybrid rice program and the promotion and utilization of hybrid rice technology.

Ms Macapagal appointed her adviser on job creation, Luis Lorenzo Jr., as ex-officio chair of the board of trustees of PhilRice. Leocadio Sebastian, PhilRice executive director, is the overall coordinator of the hybrid rice program.

Sebastian said the hybrid rice program is expected to contribute significantly to the national objective of "attaining self-sufficiency and food security, bigger farm income and more employment opportunities."

Hybrid rice

Hybrid rice, according to PhilRice, is the product of a cross between genetically unlike parents.

The combination of the positive qualities of the parent-plants results in what scientists refer to as "heterosis" or unusual hybrid vigor wherein the young seedlings are highly vigorous and the mature plant has better reproductive characteristics.

The good qualities of hybrid rice make it yield much better than the normal rice varieties called "in-bred." The in-bred rice is the result of the mating of closely related parents or through the process called "selfing."

In Chinese textbooks, Prof. Yuan Long-ping is identified as the "father of hybrid rice." In the 1970s, Yuan succeeded in producing huge quantities of seeds of hybrid rice, which is a key factor in its commercial production.

Hybrid rice needs first generation hybrid seed every time it is cultivated for commercial production to ensure the presence of the hybrid vigor in the plant.

The use of seeds harvested from hybrid rice in commercial production results in non-uniform crop stand and lower yields.

In-bred rice differs from hybrid rice in this aspect as its harvested grains can be used for the next cropping season.

China experience

China, due to the use of the hybrid rice technology, has dramatically increased its rice production from 140 million tons in 1978 to 188 million tons in 1990.

Today, more than 17 million of the 33 million hectares of rice land in China are devoted to commercial culture of hybrid rice. Its rice harvest now accounts to 20 percent of the world's total rice supply.

Also reporting success in hybrid rice production are Vietnam (400 has.), India (150,000 has.) and Bangladesh (30,000 has.). More than 15 other countries are now engaged in hybrid rice production.

Sebastian said the "Mestizo" hybrid rice variety now used in the country has out-yielded the best in-bred varieties by an average of 15 to 25 percent or by 0.78 to 1.27 metric tons per hectare (15.6 to 25.4 cavans) in demonstration trials across the country.

However, in techno-demonstrations in northeastern Luzon (Cagayan Valley), the hybrid rice out-yielded the best in-bred varieties by 1.7 tons per hectare-yield in Isabela (28 percent) and 1.4 tons per hectare in Cagayan (18 percent).

A farmer in Camalaniugan, Cagayan, harvested an impressive 12.4 metric tons of palay (248 cavans) from his one-hectare farm planted with hybrid rice. Another farmer in Bohol was reported by PhilRice to have harvested 12 tons of palay in his one-hectare hybrid rice farm.

Studies conducted by a PhilRice team, which focused on the cost and returns of hybrid rice and in-bred rice production, showed net returns of P22,006 per hectare for hybrid rice and P18,610 for in-bred rice.

The studies showed that the hybrid rice, with a harvest of 5.47 MT, had a total production cost of P22,006, while the in-bred, with a harvest of 4.9 MT, had a total production cost of P21,717.

The commercial production of hybrid rice is done like the conventional varieties, except for some modifications. Only 20 kilograms of seed are needed for a hectare. In the conventional varieties, farmers use from 80 to 120 kilograms per hectare.

During transplanting, only one seedling is needed per hill, which is way below the three to five seedlings per hill used in conventional varieties.

Also, farmers must apply 10 to 15 bags of farm wastes and organic materials in the preparation of their seedbed to loosen the soil. Sowing of seeds in the seedbed should be sparse.

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US soldiers, Abus clash

From page A1

said one of the Marines was named Corporal Jones.

"The security personnel returned fire in self-defense," Jenista added. "They were not injured. They reported to their respective commands."

At the Pentagon, Davis said that there "were casualties among the attackers, but they've not sorted out the number."

Rebel snipers

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, chief of the Southern Command, told reporters the Americans "were fired upon at a distance by the rebel snipers. We have not identified with certainty if they were really Abu Sayyaf or other groups but we can only surmise that they might be Abu Sayyaf," Carolina said.

He said infrastructure projects being undertaken by US troops, as part of the $20-million civil works component of the Balikatan exercises, "will not be affected." Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, co-training director for Balikatan, said the Seabees would continue their projects in Basilan.

Some 500 American military personnel are in Basilan providing training and logistical support for government soldiers fighting Abu Sayyaf bandits.

US Navy construction crews are building roads, bridges, ports and helicopter landing zones to help the AFP move around the rugged jungle island and foster goodwill among the island's 300,000 residents. Wurster, commander of US forces in Basilan, earlier said the Abu Sayyaf group was blocking its road projects to protect its hideouts.

"They don't want the military to be able to drive trucks up there," Wurster told reporters June 3.

STATION ZAMBOANGA

FOUR bare-chested US Navy Seals jog at the Philippine Navy headquarters in Zamboanga City. The elite US soldiers are training their Filipino counterparts as part of the RP-US military exercises. REUTERS

AFP officials said the bandits were led by commanders Kalaw Jaljali and Mauran Ampul.

Lt. Col. Rodolfo Atendido, commander of the 55th Infantry Battalion, said the American military engineers were packing up after a day's work when the armed men started shooting.

Resident Absker Arabaen said that after hearing gunfire on Monday, she saw American soldiers running "as if chasing somebody." Later, 10 pickup trucks loaded with US soldiers in full battle gear and four truckloads of Filipino soldiers arrived at the scene, she said.

Carolina said the action was part of the Abu Sayyaf's "harassment" strategy. He said the Abu Sayyaf had long wanted to attack US servicemen in Basilan but were deterred by the heavy security being provided by Filipino troops. But on Monday, the bandits finally found an opportunity to strike, he said.

Attackers fled

Monday's attack was apparently intended only to frighten the soldiers and not to overrun them, as the attackers immediately fled.

The Abu Sayyaf, once linked to al-Qaida, suffered a major setback two weeks ago when Scout Rangers recovered American hostage Gracia Burnham in a bloody rescue during which her husband Martin and Filipina nurse Edibora Yap were killed.

Maj. Richard Sater, spokesperson for US troops deployed in the south, said the encounter was being investigated but would not divulge further details.

Top regional military officials in Mindanao held a closed-door meeting after the incident.

In Camp Aguinaldo, spokesperson Melchor Rosales said: "The Americans acted well within the terms of reference. They can protect themselves when under attack."

Shortly after the clash occurred, two US Army Chinook helicopters flew out of the Zamboanga air base toward Basilan on an unknown mission. And yesterday, security was beefed up for US forces. US Marines in a Humvee personnel carrier temporarily blocked the road to Maligue.

"The security has been beefed up around all construction sites in Basilan to protect the US Seabees," a source said.

A soldier from the Army's 32nd Infantry Battalion was killed and a barangay official was seriously wounded when armed men ambushed them in Barangay Calago, Tipo Tipo town on Monday.

Aleo identified the slain soldier as Cpl. Reno Perez. The wounded barangay official was identified as Abni Isnal, chair of Calago.

He said the attack occurred near an American bunker in Tipo Tipo. But he quickly denied the incident had something to do with the deployment of US forces on the island.

"This is politically motivated," Aleo said. ***With reports from Martin Marfil; AP, AFP, Reuters***

4 Indons abducted; Abus suspected

From page A1

tion as "unfortunate."

"Operations are going on but the military has not yet identified the group involved," Afable said. "But I'm sure the authorities can handle the situation."

In the vast seas infested with pirates, smugglers and bandits, "anything can happen," Carolina told reporters.

Jolo and nearby Basilan are infested with Abu Sayyaf bandits who had abducted three Americans and nearly 100 Filipinos in the past year.

The Abu Sayyaf recently lost the last of a group of 20 hostages captured more than a year ago, raising speculation that they might strike again to gain human shields against a US-backed campaign by the Philippine military to wipe them out.

AP/PHILIPPINE NAVY

ABDUCTED Indonesians: From left, Munku Yacobus Windwatan; Zulkifli; Ferdinan Yoel; Pieter Lerrich

Tamuk islet

Hingco said the attack took place 32 km off Tamuk islet on the southwestern part of Basilan.

The tugboat SM-88 and barge Labroy-179 were reported missing late Monday by their Singaporean owner, Labroy Shipping. They were found at Matua islet near Basilan and secured Tuesday by two Navy patrol boats, said Coast Guard district commander Capt. Damian Carlos.

The remaining crewmembers, escorted by Navy ships, were to tow the barge to Zamboanga City.

Taken hostage were Munku Yacobus Windwatan, boat captain; Pieter Lerrich, chief engineer; Zulkifli, first officer; and Ferdinan Yoel, second officer.

The tugboat and barge left the port of Barjamasin, South Kalimantan, Indonesia, on June 5. It was bound for the port of the Apo Cement Corp. in Barangay Tinaan, Naga, Cebu, to deliver 7,500 metric tons of coal.

The SM-88's sister vessel, Ocean Mike, safely arrived in Naga town on June 14 with a 7,500-ton coal shipment.

Unlike the SM-88 that traveled near Basilan, however, the Ocean Mike took the safer "open sea route," according to Degamo.

"He was a new captain and he might have thought his route was the fastest way to reach Cebu," Degamo said.

The Abu Sayyaf bandits, who have been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, are known for carrying out seaborne raids and have donned military uniforms in the past to conceal their identity.

In an ambush June 7 in the southern province of Zamboanga del Norte, elite Filipino soldiers managed to rescue American missionary Gracia Burnham held by the bandits but her husband Martin and Filipino nurse Edibora Yap were killed by gunfire in circumstances that remain unclear.

The bandits dragged the Burnhams of Wichita, Kansas, through the jungle for over a year after seizing the couple in a raid on a Palawan beach resort.

Military officers warned after the rescue that the Abu Sayyaf would likely try to seize more hostages to prevent the government from intensifying attacks.

The bandits' numbers have dwindled to less than 100 on Basilan following a yearlong campaign by the Philippine military with logistical support by US forces. ***Reports from Martin P. Marfil and Philip C. Tubeza in Manila; Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Edra Benedicto, Jhunnex Napallacan and Jolene Bolambot, PDI Visayas Bureau; Jovelyn Reyes and Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; and AP***

Suicide bomber kills 19 in Jerusalem

From page A1

the dead on a sidewalk and covered them with black plastic bags. "Where is my sister? Where is my sister?" a woman screamed at volunteers collecting remains.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon rushed to the scene and vowed to fight Palestinian terror groups, then convened security chiefs for emergency consultations. Sharon held Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat responsible for continued attacks.

Tough Israeli retaliation was expected, but Israeli commentators said they believed Israel would stop short of expelling Arafat.

Earlier this month, Israeli troops blew up buildings in the Palestinian leader's headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah in response to a suicide attack that killed 17 Israelis.

The Islamic militant group Hamas claimed responsibility and identified the assailant as Mohammed al-Ghoul, 22, from the Al Faraa refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus.

A Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, Abdel Aziz Rantisi, said his group was ready to stop attacks if Israel withdrew from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We don't have the power to liberate all of Palestine (with such attacks)," Rantisi said. Hamas leaders in the past had said their main goal was Israel's destruction.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the attack, and said in a statement it would do everything it could to "find and stop anyone attempting to carry out operations."

Crowded intersection

Tuesday's explosion went off as the bus waited at a crowded intersection in southern Jerusalem. Shlomi Kalderon, 32, had just dropped off his children at kindergarten and was two cars behind the bus when the explosion went off.

"All the pieces went flying up into the air," Kalderon said from a Jerusalem hospital where he was being treated for whistling in his ears.

"People from the cars behind me came running up to the bus and started pulling people out of the windows. They didn't save many . . . I saw a head next to me after the blast."

A tent was set up at the scene where body parts would be identified.

Michael Lasri, 15, said he saw the bomber, a slightly heavy man in a red shirt, board the bus he was riding.

"I saw him for only a few seconds, from the moment he got on the bus till the moment he blew himself up," Lasri, who suffered cuts and bruises, said from a hospital bed.

"I saw a lot of bodies and body parts lying around. There was a lot of mess. For the first few minutes, there was a lot of shouting, then silence."

Police said 20 people, including the bomber, were killed and about 55 injured. It was the first suicide bombing in Jerusalem since April 12, and the deadliest attack in the city since Feb. 25, 1996, when 26 people were killed in a bus explosion.

Jerusalem has been hardest hit by the current wave of Palestinian suicide attacks.

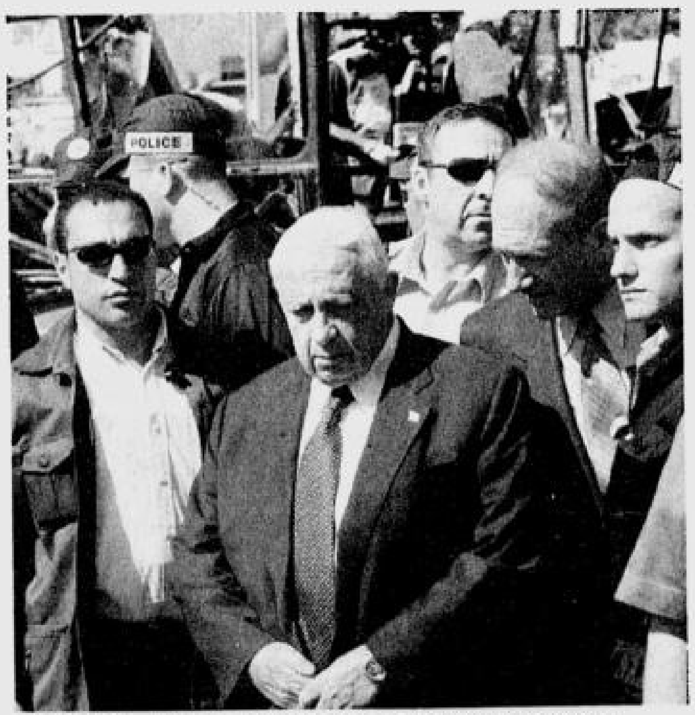
In the past 21 months of fighting, 547 people have been killed on the Israeli side and 1,712 people on the Palestinian side.

For the first time since September 2000, there were more Israeli than Palestinians killed over a specific period—43 Israelis slain so far in June, compared to 34 Palestinians.

Levy said several of those killed were young people, adding that police had warnings about additional suicide attackers having reached the city. The explosion went off near a high school, and many of the passengers were students.

Visibly angry

ISRAELI police patrol perimeter of bombed bus with police dogs. AP



ISRAELI Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, center, visits site of latest suicide bombing in Jerusalem where he watched rescuers place victims in body bags. AP

A visibly angry Sharon made an unusual visit to the scene 90 minutes after the blast. He inspected the wreckage and then walked slowly past the row of bodies on the sidewalk.

"This terrible thing that we see is a continuation of Palestinian terrorism, and against that terrorism we have to fight and struggle—and that is what we will do," Sharon said, without saying what sort of response might be expected.

Palestinian Labor Minister Ghassan Khatib said the Palestinians expected Israel's response would be directed at Arafat, whose office in Ramallah have been under siege off and on since last December.

At the Al Faraa refugee camp, relatives of the bomber sobbed and wailed at the family home as friends and neighbors gathered.

Al-Ghoul's 65-year-old father, Haza, wept on the shoulder of his brother, saying through sobs, "He's a martyr. We have only to ask our God to be merciful with him."

Haza al-Ghoul said his son was in his first semester of a master's program at the Islamic Studies College of An Najah University in nearby Nablus.

The suicide attack came as Bush was preparing to outline his vision for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal and the steps needed to get there. Bush has repeatedly criticized Arafat, saying the Palestinian leader has not done enough to prevent terror attacks in Israel.

Provisional state

Bush was said to be considering backing a provisional Palestinian state on some West Bank and Gaza land. Sharon, who objects to the idea, questioned what sort of state the Palestinians would create.

"The terrible sights we have seen here are stronger than any words," Sharon said. "It is interesting to know what kind of Palestinian state they mean. What Palestinian state?"

The blast went off near the Patt intersection in southern Jerusalem, about 150 meters from the Ort Spanian high school, where the staff and students were saying morning prayers when the blast went off.

Education Minister Limor Livnat said that seven students of the school were among the dead and wounded. Phones were ringing off the hook in the school secretary's office, with parents calling in.

Eliahu Tsur, a teacher, said between answering phones that "there's a lot of hysteria." Tsur said that "we're trying to calm the parents and stay calm ourselves."

Jerusalem police had been on high alert since Monday after receiving warnings that a suicide bomber was trying to carry out an attack in Jerusalem. Acting on specific intelligence information, police set up checkpoints throughout the city.

Earlier this week, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said five Palestinian suicide bombers were trying simultaneously to infiltrate Israel to carry out attacks. One bomber blew himself up near an Israeli border police patrol Monday, killing himself but causing no other injuries. ***AP***

Palace accepts Inquirer apology

'A straightforward and candid apology'

BAGUIO CITY—"We're satisfied with the apology. It was a straightforward and candid apology."

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable made this statement on Tuesday in reaction to INQUIRER's apology to First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo for referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo as "*pandak* (short)" in its June 16 story.

Afable said Mr. Arroyo "did what he had to do as a First Gentleman and (Ms Macapagal's) husband" when he strongly reacted to the story about a likely political match between actor Fernando Poe Jr. and Ms Macapagal in the 2004 presidential elections.

The tagline referred to Poe as "Panday" because of his iconic role in a series of fantasy movies in the 1980s. Ms Macapagal was called "Pandak" in reference to her height.

Poe had denied reports he was interested in running for president, despite an endorsement reportedly made by deposed President Joseph Estrada, his close friend.

But Afable said Ms Macapagal had not been personally offended by the label, "*pandak* (short)," when television reporters pressed him on Tuesday for Mr. Arroyo's own reactions to the apology.

He shrugged off suggestions made here that Ms Macapagal should sue the INQUIRER for libel.

"On her (reactions to) personal attacks, the President does not really get mad about this. She gets mad about delayed programs or commitments that were never fulfilled," Afable said. "I think we have learned to take those things as a matter of course."

He said the President did not even react to another newspaper's column, which advised her to stop her provincial tours, which have become sources of political entertainment.

He said Ms Macapagal's trips have always addressed regional issues.

"She goes to Regional Development Council meetings, and she deals with substantial issues," the spokesperson said.

Afable said Malacañang remained oblivious to "partisan motives in the air," which had hogged most newspaper headlines in the last few days.

"I don't really know what their motives are. There are a lot of partisan motives in the air. There's the Senate impasse and this is really an occasion for speculation and a lot of these teamups to come out," he said.

ARROYO: He did what he had to do.

One such teamup reported in the media involved opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara and administration Sen. Loren Legarda.

Legarda had denied this supposed teamup and said she would remain with the administration Lakas-NUCD.

Loren assures GMA: I'm still with Lakas

From page A1

Asked whether the President had accepted her explanation, the senator said: "She doesn't need to accept or reject it but the point is I have not jumped ship and I'm still with Lakas."

The President, who stayed in Iloilo City overnight for an official visit, was guest at the dinner hosted by Iloilo City officials.

Mild stir

She had just dined with local officials of Western Visayas and was having a meeting with mayors of Iloilo when Legarda arrived at around 8:30 p.m. causing a mild stir among the nearly 200 other guests and reporters.

Legarda went straight to the President and kissed her on the cheek, hugged her, before posing for photographers with the President, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Antique Gov. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez.

Local officials teased Ms Macapagal and Legarda when the senator sat beside the President, prompting the President to remark: "*Ninang ni* (Pampanga Vice Gov. Juan Miguel) Mikey (Arroyo) *yan*."

Ms Macapagal was referring to the June 24 wedding of her eldest son to Angela Montenegro.

Legarda's co-sponsors are former President Corazon Aquino, Norma Chan, Sally Villaraza and Gina de Venecia. Other sponsors are former President Fidel Ramos, publisher Emilio Yap, Mario Cruel, Enrique Aboitiz and Ms Macapagal's brother, Diosdado Macapagal Jr.

Asked whether there were offers for her to run in the opposition ticket, Legarda said "it's too early to be talking about those things. There is nothing that I'm considering. We should all resolve the problem of the stand off in the Senate."

Drilon said there was "no absolute truth" to the rumors that Legarda was bolting Lakas. "She is committed to continue her support to the administration."

"This is the end of the issue," said the Senate President, an Ilonggo. "There is no reconciliation because there is nothing to reconcile."

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez of Iloilo said Lakas-NUCD members were accepting Legarda's reassurance that she would remain with the ruling party.

Out of proportion

Perez also downplayed reports that Legarda was leaving Lakas-NUCD, saying it "was blown out of proportion."

She said Angara's remark was "*pangpataba ng puso ng mga* (to gladden the hearts of) Antiqueños because he knows Loren is loved by our provincemates."

Perez said the President called her on June 13, two days before the INQUIRER reported that Legarda was jumping ship, to check on reports that the governor had "set-up" the Angara-Legarda meeting in Antique.

"I told her I invited Loren to the ceremony and Ed told Loren he wanted to come along. Since he and I are close friends, I agreed," the governor said.

She said that despite her friendship with Angara, she had told the senator that she was committed to support the President.

Perez mentioned the close ties between the Zaldivar and Macapagal families. Her father, former Supreme Court Justice Calixto Zaldivar, served as executive secretary of the President's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and Christine Avendaño***

Mendoza rapped for golf with suspected drug lord

From page A1

for their alleged involvement in the illegal drug trade in this city.

Probable cause

Santiago said there was probable cause to charge Mendoza along with top officials of the PNP and the Philippine Navy.

Mendoza's golf cronies facing the prospect of administrative charges included Camp Crame officials Thomas Cantion, Rex Piad and Carlito Dimaano; Deputy Director Oscar Calderon of the Intelligence and Detective Management Office; Philippine Navy Commodore George Uy of the Navy; and Supt. Dennis Canoy, chief of the Central Visayas Regional Police Office Comptroller Division.

Mendoza arrived in Cebu on Nov. 12 to stand as sponsor to the silver wedding anniversary of one of the top local police officials in the province. Earlier in the day, however, he was seen along with his men playing golf with Lim.

Canoy, during the fact-finding hearing, testified that the meeting of Mendoza and Lim was only "accidental"—both having arrived on the same flight from Manila.

Canoy also attested that a certain Jojo Alquizola, a club member, was the one who paid for the golf game, "subject to reimbursement."

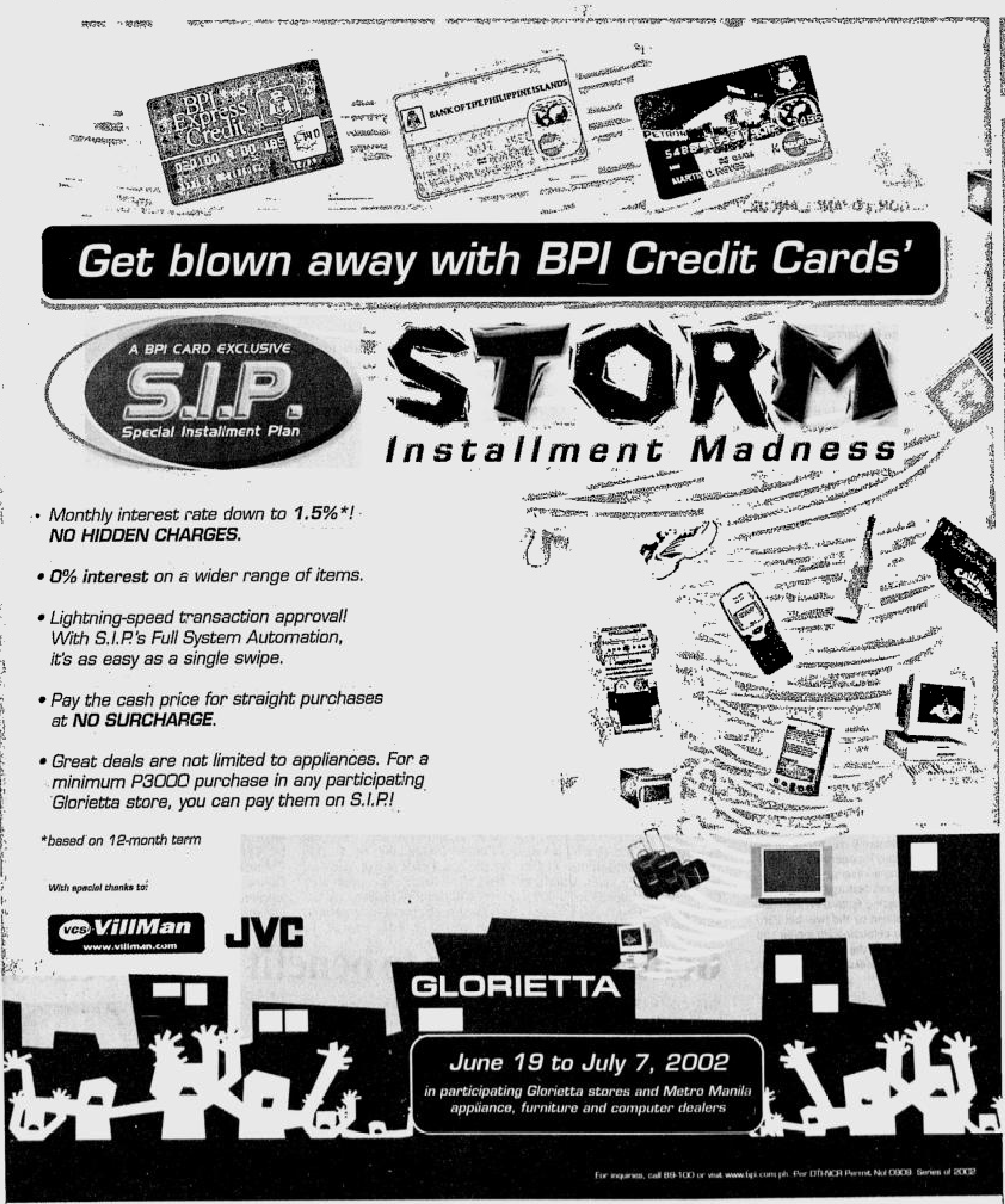
Country Club manager Carmen Borja refused to appear at the Ombudsman hearing, claiming lack of knowledge. But she did furnish the anti-graft office with copies of the score cards of the group of Mendoza and that of Lim.

Santiago said the score cards showed that it was Lim's signature which appeared in the score cards for Mendoza's group. Also, the food bills incurred by Canoy, Calderon and Uy at the Country Club while playing golf were "care of" Lim.

These records, she said, already belied Canoy's claim that it was Alquizola who paid for the game.

"This could not be construed any other way except that Wellington Lim paid for their bills while playing golf. All these point to the fact that Mr. Wellington Lim, the person who was being investigated at that time by the committee on Dangerous Drugs, actually played golf with high-ranking officers of the PNP and Philippine Navy and paid their bills," Santiago said.

MENDOZA: Now he needs to save par if he wants to keep his new job as DOTC chief.



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Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

12 pace World Slasher derby

TWELVE entries took the early lead yesterday by scoring two straight wins in the blockbuster World Slasher 8-Cock Derby at the jampacked Araneta Coliseum. The derby, hosted by Nene Araneta, Ito Ynares and the Firefly Group, is sponsored by Thunderbird, makers of Enertone, the original ready-mixed maintenance feeds.

JAPANESE PLAYERS, FANS CRY

Turkey header KOs Japan; Brazil wins

ACTION, ADVANCE, ANGUISH. Turkey's Alpay Ozalan (left, top photo) and Japan's Akinori Nishizawa dish it out with gusto in Miyagi, Japan. Turkey won, 1-0. Brazilian supporters (above photo) jubilate after Brazil's 2-0 victory over Belgium in Kobe, Japan. Japan's Kazuyuki Toda (center photo) cuts a lonely figure while a Japanese fan (extreme right) cries following her country's elimination in the World Cup. AP PHOTOS

MIYAGI, Japan—Turkey broke Japanese hearts with a 1-0 victory that knocked the co-host out of the World Cup on Tuesday.

AC Milan's Umit Davala, rising unmarked on the edge of the six-yard box, headed home a corner from Ergun Penbe in the 12th minute to seal a quarterfinal place against Senegal.

Three of the four quarterfinal matches have now been decided: England vs Brazil, Germany vs United States and Turkey vs Senegal. Italy and South Korea are playing at presstime; the winner will meet Spain.

Japan, making history by qualifying for the second round, was roared on by a vociferous crowd in blue shirts in the driving rain. The match ended with some of the Japanese players and fans crying.

"This great Japanese adventure is now over," said Japan's French coach, Philippe Troussier, who will now leave his position.

Brazil ousts Belgium

KOBE, Japan—Ronaldo's shaved head pokes into the press zone, and a zillion microphones and tape recorders rush toward his face for a comment about his game-clinching goal, his outstanding play and his opinions on Brazil's next World Cup match.

Just like old times.

But for the 25-year-old Inter striker, this is something special. His performance in this Cup has detonated the doubts about his ability to play at the sport's highest level after two knee operations and a two-year absence. Ronaldo is definitively back.

Lhuillier trips RCPI in OT

GAMES FRIDAY
(Mindanao Polytechnic)
3:30 p.m.—Davao vs Cebu
6:00 p.m.—Negros vs Cagayan

DAVAO CITY— What he failed to do in regulation play, Stephen Padilla did in overtime as the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems subdued the RCPI Negros Slashers, 97-91, last night at the Rizal Memorial Colleges Gym here.

The Gems could have won outright but Padilla missed his jumper with five seconds left, ending regulation play at 80-80. Dino Aldeguer had earlier tied the count with a jumper.

Padilla, however, canned back-to-back triples early in the extension period to trigger the Gems' breakaway. He finished with 18 points while Jercules Tangkay topscored with 23, nearly all of them coming in regulation play.

Dennis Madrid paced the Slashers with 20 points after coming through with six triples.

Raring to recover from the 76-65 loss handed them by the Professional Davao Eagles Sunday night, the Gems forced the Slashers to 11 turnovers that produced three Blitz 3s and gave them a 27-16 first quarter lead.

Settling down, the Slashers closed the gap to 50-46 by halftime and then knotted the count at 65 by the end of the third quarter.

Pampanga, playing for the first time at the newly refurbished Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center, stunned Gilbey's Olongapo, 105-91, Monday night in San Fernando City.

Prized find Vincent John Santos, aided by recruits Paeng Santos and Roland Pascual and veterans Billy Bansil and Dave Bautista, powered the Stars to a 1-1 card. *Roy Luarca*

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon Official Film 1997 at 8 a.m. (r), 1998 at 12 noon, 1999 at 6 p.m. on Star Sports
Best Of Wimbledon 2001 - Jennifer Capriati vs Serena Williams (r) at 9 a.m. on Star Sports
ATP Stella Artois Championships 2002, Quarterfinals at 1 p.m. (r – 7 p.m.) on Star Sports

Coca-Cola defeats Federal Express, 110-82

By June Navarro

GAME TOMORROW
(Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel

COCA-COLA pulled all the stops to slow down Federal Express en route to a lopsided 110-82 victory last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Surprising the Express with their smothering defense and break-neck offensive plays, the Tigers seized control right at the opening buzzer and never looked back in posting their highest-scoring win in the season.

The Tigers thus joined opening-day winners Talk N Text and Batang Red Bull at the top of the heap.

"We caught them (Express) flat-footed at the start. We never gave up and leaned on the breaks the rest of the way," said Coca-Cola coach Chot Reyes.

Out of their own initiative, the Tigers zoomed off to an imposing 31-15 spread in the first quarter with Ron Hale, Freddie Abuda and Johnny Abarrientos doing most of the damage.

The Express sprang back from a lethargic start after getting the breaks from Renren Ritualo, Jeremy Robinson and Yancy De Ocampo but the Tigers proved too deadly for the Express to handle.

From a 42-31 lead, Ron Hale, Edward Juinio and William Antonio buckled down to work, pushing the Tigers' luck further, 51-31, while denying the Express a single basket in a four-minute span.

SPORTSWATCH

Navarro, Tempo sports editor, dies

RUDY C. Navarro, Tempo sports editor, yesterday died after a cardiac arrest. He was 63. A veteran newsman, Navarro started his career as assistant business editor of the defunct Evening News in 1960. During Martial Law in 1972, Navarro was business editor of the defunct Daily Express. He transferred to Evening Post in 1974. Before he joined Tempo as a deskman in 1982, Navarro was editor of Sports News. Navarro also covered the police beat but he made his mark as a hard-hitting sports columnist. He was elected twice as president of the Philippine Sportswriters Association and became a director of the National Press Club. A native of Mabini, Pangasinan, Navarro attended the Mabini Elementary School and St. Columban's Academy. He earned a journalism degree at the University of Santo Tomas. His body lies at the Holy Trinity Memorial chapel in Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be announced later.

Six-day races at Manila Jockey Club on

IT'S all systems go for local racing's biggest racing extravaganza as the Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) marks the 23rd renewal of the famed Gran Copa de Manila Racing Festival with an unprecedented 6-day parade of top-notch racing action starting today at the San Lazaro Hippodrome. This year's festivities coincides with the 431st founding anniversary of the country's premier city and is one of the major events featured in this year's citywide celebration. The highlight of the 6-day racing festival is the "Gran Copa de Manila Day" on June 24, which is headlined by the twin-bill 23rd "Gran Copa de Manila" Stakes Races. Gran Copa defending champion and last year's Horse of the Year titlist Wind Blown heads the stellar cast of protagonists set to compete in the P1-Million guaranteed premier division.

WELCOME... LA HING ARAW NG MAYNI
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RACING FESTIVAL

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza shakes hands with Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) Executive Vice President and COO Roberto Reverente to formalize the launching of the 23rd Gran Copa de Manila Racing Festival yesterday at the MJCI Turf Room. Among those who joined in the festivities are (from left) Philracom Commissioner Vergel Cruz, GAB Chair Eduardo Villanueva, Australian race caller Peter Morrison, Philracom Executive Director Narmo Noblejas and MJCI VP for Operations Juan de Leon.

Motocross June 21-22

MOTORBIKE mania hits Palawan on June 21 and 22 when the 4th leg of the WG&A Superferry National Motocross Series 2002 blasts off at the Sta. Monica Racetracks in Puerto Princesa. The WG&A event is a project of Kids (Kabataang Iwas Droga sa tulong ng Sports) Foundation and organized by the Hartebeest Entertainment Corp.

St. La Salle dribblers Nike 3 on 3 finalists

BACOLOD—University of St. La Salle got the extra push from Arrom Jun Aledron to thrash West Negros College in overtime, 13-11, and rule the kickoff leg of the Nike 3 on 3 at the Tay Tung High School Gym here Saturday. The USLS Stingers, who thwarted the stiff resistance from Living Heritage Christian School in an equally exciting semifinals, 13-12, will be sent to Manila to compete in the National Finals in August. West Negros College, the first runner-up, overthrew defending champion Colegio de San Agustin-Bacolod, 12-9, in overtime in the other semifinal match.

Balayan hosts Batangas sprint duathlon

THE FIRST of a series of sprint duathlon events organized and sanctioned by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines begins with the 258 Balayan Duathlon Challenge on June 22 in Balayan, Batangas.

Organized by the Trap in coordination with the Municipality of Balayan and Club 258, the event offers P3,000, P2,000 and P1,000 to the Top 3 male and female winners plus medals. Age-group winners will likewise receive medals.

The event, sponsored by Mayor Emmanuel Fronda, Espinelli's Hermanidad San Juan Bautista Organization Inc. and supported by Speedo, Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee is part of a long preparation for local athletes bracing themselves up for the 2nd Asian Duathlon Championships.

Smart winner an engineer

AN engineer from the regional office of the Department of Public Works and Highways-Legazpi won the Sports Text Quiz sponsored by Smart Communications Inc. over radio station dwNX during the Palarong Pambansa held recently in Naga.

Civil engineer Ed Naval won over other finalists who texted in their answers to Palarong Pambansa trivia questions. Naval got away with a Lydia de Vega trivia, earning him a brand-new Nokia 3330 and Smart premium items.

"The Smart Sports Quiz was our way of showing our support to the nation's athletes. It was an enhancement to the Palaro as it encouraged the host community, delegates and visitors to take another look at sports as a human endeavor and the kind of discipline and hard work needed to achieve a particular feat," said Mon Isberto, a top executive of Smart Communications Inc.

It's Greenhills I

GREENHILLS 1 won the Nokia Intervillage East final in runaway fashion at Wack Wack West course on Monday. Drawing sustained firepower from its frontliners, Greenhills 1 amassed 296 points and emerged champion in the event sponsored by Nokia and supported by PLDT, Alaxan, Planet Wine & More Gallery, ICTSI, Mastercard, Philippine Airlines, Menzi & Co., National Sports Grill, Pisanti, Mizuno and Boracay 357. With a 580 total, Greenhills 1 beat Greenhills 2 which had 558 following a 291. Third was Valleverde 1 with 554 after a 282.

Gentleman's Cup to benefit out-of-school youth

THE COUNTRY'S out-of-school youth are the beneficiaries of the first Gentleman's Cup slated at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's West course.

"When my friends asked me to be a part of this tournament, I unhesitatingly agreed when they told me that its main goal is to raise funds for them," Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo said yesterday.

"With them as the beneficiaries, I immediately agreed to lend my name. Now, I'm inviting the generous souls out there to join us in this undertaking and make it a success."

"The 18-hole tournament is slated on June 27, which is also the birthday of the honoree," said Tony Cabangon Chua, the organizing committee overall chairman.

"Actually, we are holding this event through Project Oyster," Cabangon Chua said.

Oyster means "Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Recovery."

Only recently, Arroyo helped a young victim finance her hospitalization.

Project Oyster is now being carried out by police districts all over the country, in cooperation with national government agencies, local government units, business and economic associations, youth-oriented organizations and civic groups.

ARROYO

The project began last Jan. 21 at barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City in the course of President Macapagal Arroyo's consultation meeting with depressed communities.

In that meeting, she heard the plea of Kristong Hari parish priest Fr. James Gaa for her to act on the growing number of out-of-school youth and their rising involvement in criminality in the area.

Promptly, she directed Chief Superintendent Rodolfo Tor to formulate a police-oriented program that would curb juvenile criminality and at the same time extend emergency economic assistance program to the community's out of school youth.

Tor, director of the PNP's Central Police District that covers the area, came up with Project Oyster.

Aside from Cabangon Chua, other top officials of the event are Jack K.C. Ng, chairman of the ways and means committee, and co-chairmen Jimmy Tang and Alfonso Sly.

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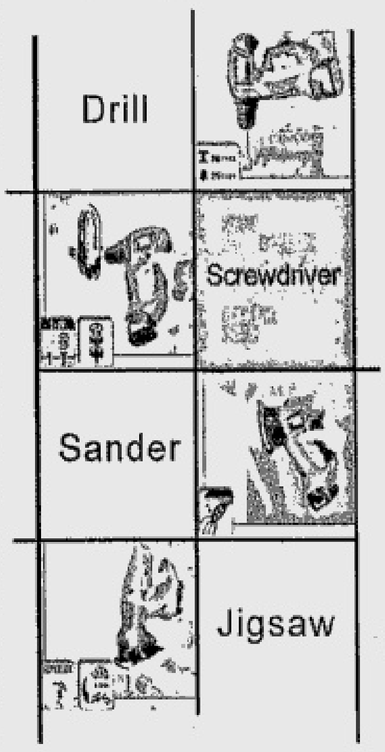

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St. Louis, UST cagers win

ST. LOUIS University, University of Sto.Tomas and Small World Academy ruled the Luzon leg of the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002, held last weekend in cooperation with Growee and WG&A Zip at Burnham Park in Baguio City.

"We congratulate the winners of the Luzon eliminations," said John Alonte, president and managing director of adidas Philippines. "And we likewise thank all the teams who joined and the people of Baguio City as well who made the staging of this event successful. Surely, we will be back here next year for the 8th adidas Streetball Challenge."

The St. Louis University cagers, composed of Ron Nineza, Jeffrey Salcedo, John Perez and Melvin Galong, played catch-up most of the way. They turned on the heat in the last two minutes to pull the rug from under Holy Angel University, 13-11, in the Seniors division finals, the tournament's centerpiece event.

The UST basketbelles Irene Cahilig, Juvy Salazar, Aileen Rose Arcigal and Nerissa Noscal used their height and experience in walloping University of Baguio, 14-10, to top the women's finals.

In the Juniors competition, the St. Louis Philex B team of Mark Kelly Kaluza, Gerald Austria, Carl Balangue and Elinito Bosi leaned on its strong start and tough defense down the stretch to oust Our Lady of Manaoag College-Pangasinan, 12-9.

Small World Academy and Our Lady of Manaoag College-Pangasinan ended the regulation tied at 13, but the SWA small cagers Arvin Navarro, Benette Osboro, Jefferson Rodriguez and Archimedes Go proved steadier in the shootout as they outlasted their rivals, 2-1, en route to capturing the Midgets crown.

The Luzon eliminations' winning schools advance to the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 National Finals on Aug. 17-18 in Cebu City.

Present at the inaugurals of the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 in Baguio City were top officials of adidas Philippines, spearheaded by president and managing director John Alonte, marketing director Angelica Suiza, sports marketing assistant manager Goody Custodio, retail development manager Mark Bonjoc, accessories product associate Toti Wong and marketing services assistant manager Odette Velarde.

Baguio City Mayor Bernardo Vergara welcomed them.

Farewell Rudy, Joey

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

HARD-HITTING columnist and Tempo sports editor Rudy Navarro is gone. Our mutual friend, Gus Villanueva, said Rudy died yesterday morning losing a determined effort to live after a brain surgery more than a week ago. He was 63. And just recently, my *inaanak* Joey Gomez, a former employee of this paper, also passed away due to a lingering illness at age 39. To their bereaved families, I offer my deepest sympathy, praying that Rudy and Joey will rest in peace forever.

Both will always be remembered for being good-natured and soft-spoken and for being true and tested friends. Rudy in particular was composed even under tremendous pressure in the practice of his profession. He was also a caring *ninong* to my late son Carlo. And, as a journalist, fearless and honest.

Rudy and I have had several stints covering sporting events here and abroad. When I was the derby director of the Philippine Soap Box Derby way back in 1983, Rudy joined me in the Philippine delegation to cover the participation of Filipino entries Julian Coseteng and Jonjon Abadilla in the All-American races in Akron, Ohio. And Rudy was among the first person to embrace me and shake my hands when I was adjudged the "Most Outstanding Derby Director of 1983 by the All-American Soap Box Derby board during glittering ceremonies. He was indeed very proud of me, a gesture which I will always treasure as long as I live.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, Danilo Pila beat Ringo Navarrosa, 7-5, 7-6 (10-8), to snare the Gen. Santos Open title at the Gen. Santos Tennis Club court.

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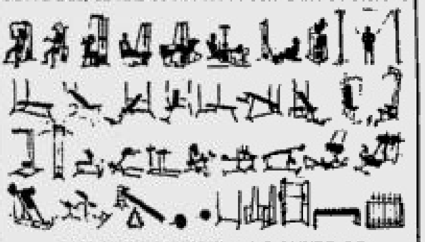

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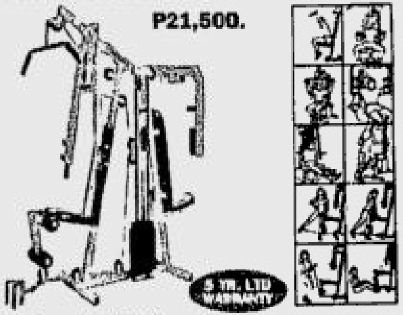

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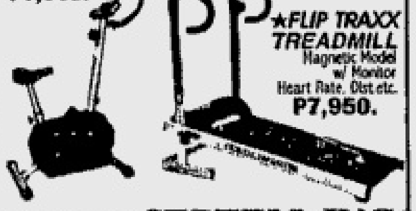

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Ateneo seeks 2-0 lead

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
3 p.m.—Kutitap Toothpaste vs ICTSI-La Salle (for 3rd)
5 p.m.—Ateneo-Hapee-Nenaco vs Blu (championship)

Best-of-5
Game One
Ateneo 76, Blu 73

By Dennis U. Eroa

ATENEO-Hapee-Negros Navigation shoots for a commanding 2-0 lead against Blu Sun Power today in Game Two of the PBL Chairman's Cup best-of-five championship series at the Pasig Sports Center.

The Blue Eagles eye their second straight win against the Detergent Kings, who badly need a victory to stay in the hunt for the prestigious title.

Game Two is set at 5 p.m. The 3 p.m. opener pits Kutitap against ICTSI-La Salle. The Sparklers need just a victory to wrap up third place after winning the first game in overtime, 82-76.

Cool under pressure, Ateneo edged Blu, 76-73, last Monday, a victory which installed the Blue Eagles as solid title contenders against the highly experienced Detergent Kings, who are also eyeing their first PBL crown.

"We drew first blood. But it's nothing if we can't win the next game," said Ateneo mentor Joel Banal. "Game One is a confidence-booster."

Slotman Enrico Villanueva was his usual explosive self, and got big support from astute playmaker Celino Cruz, Andrew Cruz, Rich Alvarez, Efren Valdez and Larry Fonacier.

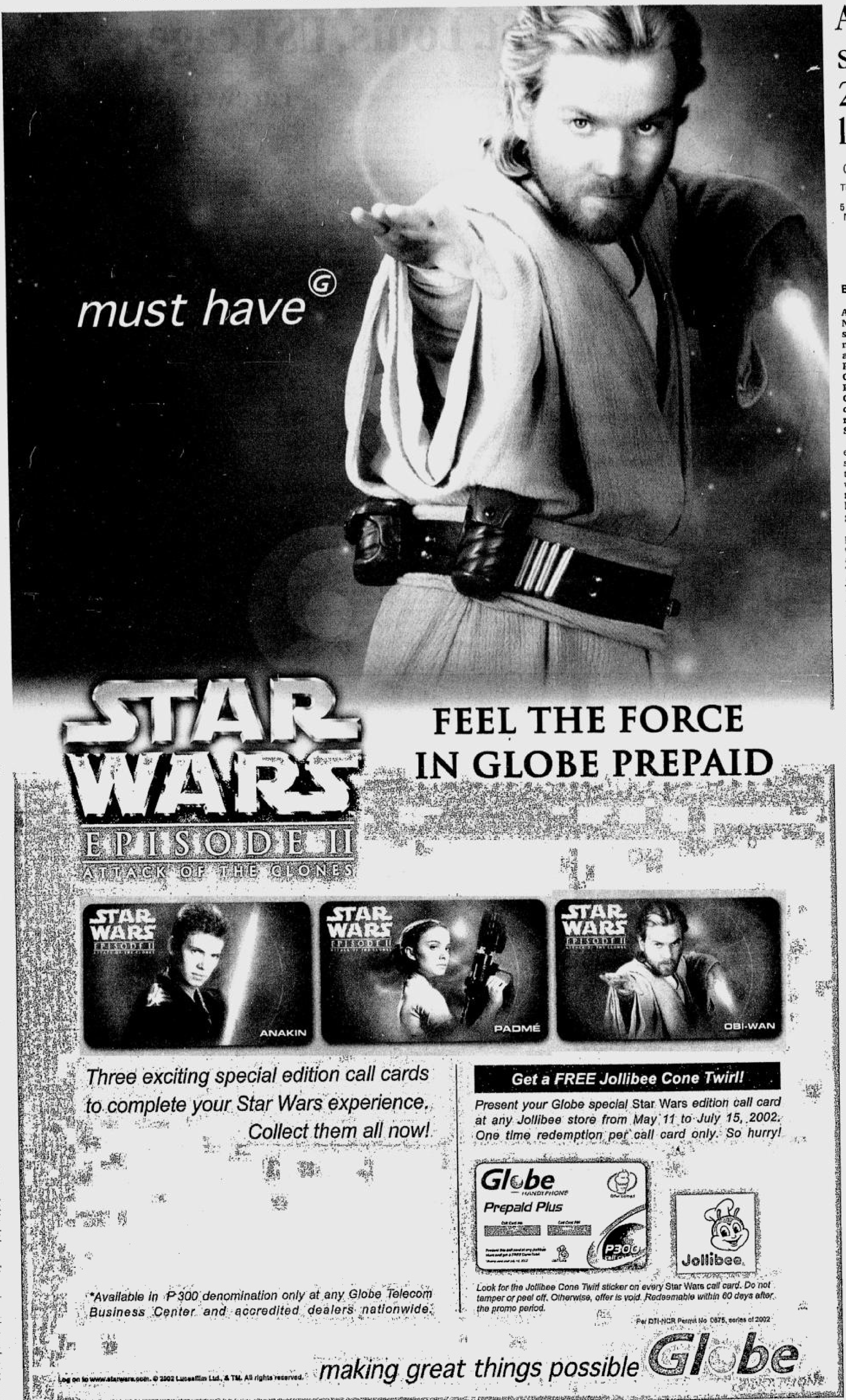
As expected, Blu's defense swarmed all over the 6-foot-5, power-playing Villanueva, who scored 13 points on 5 of 6 shooting. Unlike in the past, Villanueva now looks for his open teammates, dishing four assists to the cutting Valdez and Alvarez.

Despite losing the first game, Blu is in high spirits. "We've been in this kind of situation before. Winning the second game is a must and then I can say that we're back in business," said Blu owner Dioceldo Sy.

Marlon Legaspi and Mel Latoreno will try to put the cuffs on Villanueva, while Eric de la Cuesta, Aris Dimaunahan and Tristan Codamon will provide Blu the firepower.

WHAT'S INSIDE

▩ **Brazil to q'finals** /A20
▩ **PBA result** /A20
▩ **MBA games** /A20



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No 0875, series of 2002

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▩ **NBI closes in on shabu thief** /A24
▩ **Bare Eye: Rape of barrio voters a test for Ben Abalos** /A24

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

2 Ativan suspects yield

By TJ Burgonio and Philip C. Tubeza

TWO suspected members of the Ativan Gang have yielded to the authorities to clear their names in connection with the disappearance and death of a Korean diplomat two weeks ago, police said.

Gerardo Lazaro and Lourdes Crudo turned themselves in to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group on Monday night after hearing news that they were being hunted down in connection with the disappearance and death of Chung Young-ho.

"They said that they had long ceased to be members of the Ativan Gang and denied having anything to do with the death of the diplomat," said a CIDG agent, who asked not to be named.

Lazaro and Crudo were held at the CIDG for further investigation, authorities said. They were not presented to the media pending the manhunt against their leader and other cohorts. It has yet to be confirmed if authorities have arrested a third suspect.

Director Nestorio Gualberto,

2 ATIVAN/ A24

Replacement cops clean up after Pasay police

By Christian V. Esguerra

AS THE entire Pasay police force go on a 20-day refresher course on hostage management and other crisis situations in Subic, their replacements on Monday had to clean dirty offices, kill cockroaches and scrub stinking toilet bowls at the Pasay police compound.

This was the first order Senior Supt. Oscar Catalan, officer in charge of the Pasay police, gave the 341 policemen who replaced the Pasay police force.

"My first order to them was to clean up the area," said Catalan Monday. "It would be much easier to work if our surroundings are clean."

REPLACEMENT/ A24

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METROBRIEFS

Kidnapped in Bulacan

POLICE arrested jeepney driver Sergio Enriquez for allegedly abducting the 2-year-old son of his live-in partner in Angat town, Bulacan on Sunday. Based on a report from Camp General Alejo Santos in Bulacan, Enriquez, 34, asked permission from his live-in partner, Valerie Galvez, to take her son, Eduardo, to church at 5:30 p.m. on Sunday. Later that day, Galvez received a call from Enriquez who demanded P10,000 for the boy's release, report showed. Galvez sought the help of the Bulacan police, who escorted her to Enriquez's house in Angat. To fend off the police, Enriquez took a jungle bolo and held the boy hostage for almost an hour. But Senior Insp. Prudencio Legaspi, Angat police chief, managed to persuade the suspect to release the boy unharmed. Enriquez is now detained at the Angat municipal jail. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Rescued in Pasig City

POLICE rescued 5-year-old Meann Dizon from the clutches of a deranged man on Monday in Pasig City. Dizon, of F. Manalo Street, Barangay Manggahan, Pasig City, was held captive for 30 minutes and suffered minor injuries in the neck and body, said PO3 Efren Calix, of the Pasig City Police. Investigators arrested Balios Manalo after a brief scuffle. They seized a bread knife and an electrical cord, which he used to tie the victim's neck, police said. Dizon was playing with her friends when Manalo grabbed her at about 4 p.m. for no apparent reason, Calix said. Manalo, who was wearing a laboratory gown and surgical mask, then threatened to kill the girl if anyone tried to approach him. Calix said a police team under Insp. Reynaldo Tibo found it difficult to negotiate with Manalo because the suspect appeared to be crazy. The drama ended when two lawmen approached Manalo from behind and grabbed the knife from the suspect, Calix said. ***Nelson Flores***

Fire in Valenzuela

FIRE struck a furniture shop in Valenzuela City Sunday, destroying over P19 million worth of property, fire investigators said. The blaze started at around 5 a.m. at the West Olympic Wood Enterprises on Santiago Street, Canumay West, Valenzuela, owned by one Nelson Lim. The fire started inside the firm's stockroom where combustible materials such as foam, wood and chemicals were stored, said Fire Officer 3 Dominador Lota of the Valenzuela Fire Bureau. Fire fighters put out the blaze at 5:15 a.m. Investigators have yet to establish what started the blaze. ***Tina Santos***

Jailed in Caloocan

PO3 LEANDRIO Songcuan of the Valenzuela City Police Station was thrown in jail after he shot dead tricycle driver Rolando Angeles over a traffic altercation in Caloocan City on Sunday. Investigators said Angeles, who was on a motorcycle, and Songcuan, who was driving his owner-type jeep, figured in a shouting match over traffic on Campupot Street, 11th Avenue, Caloocan, at about 12:45 p.m. Songcuan, 34, of Vista Verde Village, Caloocan, told police that Angeles, 39, lost his temper and attacked him with a 9-inch fan knife. Songcuan said he was left with no choice but to defend himself with his 9-mm service firearm. Angeles, of Campupot Street, died on the way to the Ospital ng Caloocan, police said. Songcuan gave himself up and turned over his gun and badge to investigators. ***Tina Santos***

Nabbed in Batasan Hills

POLICE arrested suspected killer Anthony Saul, and his two cohorts, Erwin Gumira and Jun Castigador, in Batasan Hills, Quezon City on Sunday. Supt. Rogelio Quilang, Central Police District Station 6 commander, said the suspects were arrested for a series of robberies in Batasan Hills. But when the suspects were taken to Station 6, witness Creslyn Daduia came up and identified Saul, 18, as the man who shot and killed her boyfriend, Adolfo Fernandez, on June 13, police said. CPD lawmen spotted Saul and Gumira, of Barangay Batasan Hills, and Castigador, of Rodriguez, Rizal, on IBP Road at about 2 a.m. on June 16. When the policemen searched the suspects, they found on them improvised shotguns with live rounds and a knife. ***Agnes Donato***

NBI closes in on shabu thief

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is closing in on the person who pilfered more than seven kilos of shabu from the bureau's evidence room, said NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco.

"(The investigating committee) now has a suspect and they are building a case against that suspect," Wycoco told reporters.

The NBI director did not say if the culprit is an employee of the bureau.

But Wycoco said the three high-ranking female NBI officials relieved last month had nothing to do with the disappearance of the shabu from the NBI's evidence room.

Wycoco earlier sacked Forensic Chemistry Division chief Idabel Pagulayan, Dangerous Drugs section chief Constancia Salonga, and evidence custodian Lucia Gonzales for "administrative responsibility."

Wycoco said the three could now go back to work at the NBI, but not to the positions they held before.

"They may only do lab work," he said in Filipino. "They can help out in technical services."

Wycoco earlier said "all personnel from the NBI Special Task Force and the FCD technical service" would be investigated.

NBI-STF members confiscated the missing shabu during a raid in Pasay City in December 2000.

Rape of barrio voters a test for Ben Abalos

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(CRISP & CLEAR: Rudy Navarro, a dear and loyal friend, left us yesterday morning. He was 63. The fellow, who had served as sports editor of Tempo from the first day the paper was published in 1982, was a pillar of wisdom who guided younger deskmen in putting the paper to bed in the early days of the young tabloid. He will be missed by a legion of readers who have been used to his clear, crisp, hardhitting prose....Angel Palmero, 84, says his grandson John Brian Pascua, is now confined at the Medical Center Parañaque after taking a long trip from Mangatarem, Pangasinan last Wednesday.)

* * *

THIS is not party time. Kidnappings abound, the Abu Sayyaf continues to sow terror in Mindanao.

In fact, Malaya, quoting Teresita Ang See, yesterday reported the abduction of two tourists, a Japanese and a Korean.

There's confusion, uncertainty in the lives of poor daily wage-earners.

But there must be a big reason behind the abundance of smiling faces around. You see sparkling eyes and pearly white teeth in both the pages of our newspapers and the television screens.

At least that was how it was the past few days after the President started to revamp her Cabinet.

One reason behind the newfound gladness could be the appointment of Bayani Fernando, former city mayor of Marikina, as head of the Metro Manila Development Authority.

The Fernando appointment has become the source of great expectations.

It was not only a whiff of fresh air, but actually a prayer heard for all of us who have given up on ever experiencing cleanliness and order in the dirty, clogged streets we travel, rather reluctantly, day after day.

* * *

Fernando, a miracle worker who has transformed Marikina into the envy of neighbors, has actually taken on a monstrous challenge.

There were fears that he could have been caught in a no-win situation.

But the guy, armed with a unique and effective style of disciplined governance, cannot be expected to tarry.

Given time and enough authority, plus full support from Metro Manila mayors, Fernando could yet slay the monster.

Of course, the media should also allow him to get on the job—right now.

The way it looked in the first days after his appointment, it would appear that Fernando had nothing else to do but talk and be tied down with media people.

He was in practically in all television talk shows.

His stints with reporters from the print media were no less pre-occupying.

Let's pray the euphoria wears off within the week and the Miracle Maker of Marikina is finally let loose against the ever-mounting mess in the metropolis.

* * *

Well, the media may have been less enthusiastic about Benjamin Abalos Sr., the superb political tactician Fernando has succeeded at the MMDA.

Just the same, the reception Abalos got upon his ascension as chair of the Commission on Elections also amounted to a celebration.

From Day One, there were already clear expectations Mr. Abalos would finally succeed in unifying the fractious body which has been perennially wracked by intrigues.

Abalos, the way he has been smiling confidently, appears tailored for his new job.

Something in his tanned golfer's smile say he could be the man they have been waiting for all these years.

Sorry to say this, but as soon as he has settled down, the new Comelec chief may have to take a short trip, go back to his native Mandaluyong, which he had ably served as its mayor, and make an investigation.

Or he could send a team to probe and hopefully contain a growing unrest among alarmed voters in a major riverside barangay.

* * *

Sorry to report this, Mr. Chairman, but there has been a rape of voters in Barangay Vergara, one of your bailiwicks.

This anomaly was discovered the other day when, after having secured a new voters' list for said barangay, one *kagawad* discovered to his dismay the rampant, wholesale disenfranchisement of nearly 200 voters in precincts 87 and 87-1.

Majority of the voters residing on Enriquez St., who were openly identified with a group opposing the family of the incumbent barangay chairman, have been excluded from the new list approved and issued by the local Comelec.

It was the same case with voters residing in the Mandaluyong Executive Mansion.

At last count, those who had been scratched out of the new official list already numbered 169, said the kagawad who had stumbled on the anomaly.

A check later yesterday bared that the raid and rape of Vergara voters who were openly opposed to the family of the incumbent barangay head was more widespread than earlier discovered.

* * *

Goring Coloma, upon going over the new Comelec list, discovered that of 11 voters residing in his house, only two have been retained.

It was the same case with Gregorio Candelaria whose wife Edith was the only one left from the original six voters in his brood.

All the qualified voters in the family of Pedring Roxas were also stricken out of the list.

Truth is that most of those who had been disenfranchised have not yet been informed of the crime, obviously perpetrated with the blind approval of the local Comelec registrar, identified as a certain Lacuesta.

This warning could sound urgent because it indeed is.

But Chairman Abalos is hereby requested to do something about the blatant violation of people's rights in Barangay Vergara.

At least residents, who have long been working and praying for reforms in the poorly served barangay, could be thankful that the anomaly was discovered ahead of the forthcoming barangay polls.

Otherwise, if the fraud had surfaced on July 15, the poor voters would have ended up wetting their bed or crying in their sleep.

This is not an exaggeration. A storm is brewing, and Chairman Abalos would do well to save the poor residents from again being trampled upon and cheated.

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2 Ativan suspects . . .

From page A23

CIDG chief, put up last week a P200,000 reward for the capture of each of the five suspected members of the gang, which has been blamed for the rash of abduction and robberies of foreigners, including Chung.

He identified the gang's leader as Rocky Soriano, alias Robert Sambili, and his cohort, Rodrigo Fabricante. Another member, Fabricante's live-in partner, was not identified.

Chung disappeared on the night of June 6 after a nightout with a Korean friend and a man who identified himself as Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank executive Robert Sambili at a videoke bar in Taytay, Rizal. He was found dead the next day in a residential area in Marikina City.

Two Japanese and a Frenchman reported later that the same group had victimized them.

Members of the Ativan Gang are notorious for befriending foreigners and drugging them before divesting them of their valuables and cash, and then dumping them in nearby provinces.

Police yesterday announced a metro-wide crackdown on suspected Ativan gang members, petty criminals and their police protectors.

Deputy Director-General Edgar Aglipay, National Capital Region Police Office chief, said the police are drawing up an "order of battle" against these criminals. "I gave strict orders to list (their names) and to hunt them down," Aglipay said.

He warned policemen conniving with the criminals that they would not be spared from the crackdown.

"They will be dismissed from the service if we find evidence that they are involved," he said.

Aglipay also said that 2,700 additional policemen would be deployed around the metropolis to protect foreigners.

Aglipay made the announcement during a joint press conference Monday at the tourism department with Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon and the chiefs of the five police districts of Metro Manila.

"It is no longer safe for the Ativan Gang or other criminals to operate," Gordon said. "If they stuck out their tongues (with impunity) in the past, they will have to do that now (at) their own peril," Gordon said.

"(Law enforcers), from the top-ranking officers down to the lowly policeman, would also be held accountable for any case that happens under their jurisdiction," he added.

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Replacement ...

From page A23

Catalan said his men would concentrate on the usual problems of the city such as illegal gambling and nightclubs with lewd shows.

"We will do the usual police work and this will involve ridding the city of gambling areas and nightclubs with indecent shows," he said.

Catalan also assured that his men would not bungle a hostage crisis.

"They've learned from the experience," he said. "They're not nervous at all. I told them to stay focused and just do their jobs."

But policemen assigned at the CID office first had to rid the office of cockroaches using insecticides, upon specific orders of interim CID chief Aner Tadeos.

"*Ganito pala dito* (I didn't know what it was like here)," said a police officer.

The CID office was practically an abandoned and squalid room when the replacements from the different districts in Metro Manila arrived at the Pasay police compound on Monday.

Its former occupants had taken the worn-out tables, chairs, and typewriters, which they had bought with their own money, an officer said on Sunday.

But they left behind a few tables, a couple of typewriters and a busted toilet bowl.

Outside of the office are decaying vehicles, which are pieces of evidence in pending cases, piles of uncollected garbage and animal refuse.

The Pasay police were ordered to take the refresher course after the botched rescue on May 31 of 4-year-old Dexter Balala from hostage taker Diomedes Talvo.

Both Balala and Talvo were shot dead during the rescue attempt.

Jollibee, 'Star Wars' attack illiteracy through SAS

AS ANAKIN Skywalker learns the secrets of the Jedi in order to protect the peace of the Federation, Jollibee works on to fight illiteracy among public school children through its support of the Sa Aklat Sisikat (SAS), a program which aims to promote love for reading.

First developed in 1999 by Museo Pambata, the SAS was established as an independent foundation in 2001. Its aim is to build a nation of readers, especially among public school students.

To help raise funds and sustain the SAS program, Jollibee sought the support of its friends and partners who attended the premiere of "Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones" at the Premiere TXH Cinema in Makati City.

Proceeds from the premiere's donation drive will enable the SAS Foundationto purchase books, set up reading corners, and provide training for teachers in selected public schools in the Philippines.

Through the SAS reading program, students in the 4th grade level of selected public schools are given 40 books to read. Students are also given a personal SAS passbook, which serves as their reading journal, enabling the teacher to track his or her progress. Once the participating school has met the requirements of the SAS program, a Tuklas Reading Corner will be constructed for the school's use.

To read is to know, and just as basic as a child's right to an education is the right to read. Jollibee hopes that through the SAS program, children will be free from the menace of illiteracy and even poverty.

For more information on Sa Aklat Sisikat, call the SAS Foundation Inc. at 886-3888 local 3523/3525, or e-mail sa_aklat_sisikat@petron.com.

MCCANN'S MODESS TEAM IN WINNING FORM

Tope advertising agency McCann-Erickson Philippines won this year's prestigious Print Ad of the Year Award for Modess Ultra Thin's 'Filo' in the Creative Guild's 19th awards ceremonies. The award is the third in a string of recognitions, including the Asian Advertising Awards in Hong Kong and the Araw Awards in Cebu. The winning ad formed part of a multimedia campaign that helped boost the Ultra Thin brand into leading its market segment. Modess is currently the number one napkin brand by McCann's long-time partner Johnson & Johnson Philippines. Seen here showing their delight at receiving the recognitions are McCann's Modess Team (from left) Vianne Perdigon (creative director), Boyet Custodio (art director), CJ Domingo (senior account executive), Agnes Francisco (business unit director), Lizanne Contreras (copywriter) and Micky Domingo (VP and executive creative director).

UE studes get 'smart' IDs

STARTING this semester, University of the East students will be getting "smart-card" identification cards, Panfilo O. Domingo, UE chair, announced recently.

He said special ID cards will give UE students the advantage of being part of the first "fully wired university campuses in the country." The smart cards will allow UE students access to the university's electronic data bases including the library, seminar, research information banks, campus and worldwide e-mail systems.

The smart cards can also be used by students as "smart money", similar to the ones already being used by many consumers in Europe. This means that the smart cards can be used to pay deposits for laboratory equipment, overdue book fines in the library and other school expenses while enrolled in the school.

Domingo said that the smart card IDs will be made available not only to students enrolled in the IT curriculum of UE, but to all other UE students as well. He said the system is part of UE's continuing effort to maintain the university's leadership in IT education by providing practical IT applications to students of the school.

The UE smart ID card is just one of many IT infrastructures the university has put in place for practical applications to make UE students better understand information technology and how it affects their daily lives.

Smart cards are similar to credit cards, but instead of purely financial data, information on the student's status of enrollment, his course of study and other relevant information will be stored in a computer chip no larger than a large dot, Dela Cruz explained.

Hechanova appointed advisor to China Rotary clubs

ROTARY International president Richard D. King announced recently the appointment of RI past director Rafael "Paing" Hechanova as the special advisor to the two Rotary non-districted and provisional Rotary Clubs in Beijing and Shanghai, China.

As the RI advisor, Hechanova is expected to hold Rotary Information workshops to orient the entire membership of both clubs to Rotary as well as to provide encouragement and support to club leaders so they may build an effective club and develop into viable and fully participating members of Rotary International.

Members of the two provisional Rotary Clubs in Beijing and Shanghai are composed of former Rotarians and newly inducted foreign expatriates, businessmen and professionals now working and living in China.

Currently, Chinese law prohibits these two provisional clubs from recruiting members of Chinese nationals until the Chinese government enacts legislation to permit the non-government organizations like Rotaries to operate within its borders.

Paing Hechanova has been a member of the Rotary Club of Makati since 1967, its president in 1972-73, district governor of D-3820 in 1979-80, and has served Rotary International as RI director in 1996-98 and in various capacities as chair and member of various Rotary International committees, task forces and international meetings.

Hechanova also recently headed the Philippine delegation that joined King in his official visit to Vietnam, where no Rotary clubs presently exist.

PIONEER POINTE CONDOS LAUNCHED

Pioneer Pointe Condominium was launched June 1. Pioneer Pointe is the newest high-rise residential development along Pioneer Street within the Mandaluyong CBD. Shown, from left, are Rosaline Y. Qua, FVP for business development for high rise, Filinvest Alabang Inc., Mercedes T. Gotianun, vice chair of Filinvest Land Inc., Josephine Gotianun-Yap, executive vice president for Filinvest Alabang Inc., architect Roger Villarosa of RVA, project architect, Elrey T. Ramos, president and COO representing East West Bank, lot owner, architect Erlinda Tan, FVP for planning and engineering, and architect Roy Villarosa of RVA.PIONEER POINTE CONDOS LAUNCHED

WSA PHILIPPINES OFFICE BLESSING

Wireless Services Asia, the company that created the first value-added services for mobile phones in the country, formally inaugurated its Philippine office at the 11th floor of the NOL Tower in Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang. Its partners from the country's telecommunication giants Globe and Nokia were there to grace the occasion. Special guests who officiated at the ribbon cutting were (from left, first row) Tapani Sairanen, account director for Globe of Nokia Philippines, Ambassador Raimo Anttola of Finland, Ambassador-Designate to the United Nations in Geneva Josefina Lichauco, and Gerardo Ablaza, president and CEO of Globe Telecom. Behind them are Rainer Leinonen, COO of WSA, Manny Gonzales, president of Mecca Systems Inc., and Ed Limon, president and CEO of WSA. WSA is one of the country's pioneers in value-added services for the mobile industry, and also holds offices in Finland and Singapore.

ERRATUM

In its June 15 release, Josefina Lichauco was mistakenly designated as the 'Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations'. Alfonso Yuchengco is our Ambassador to the UN. Our apologies to Lichauco and Yuchengco.

Philippine Airlines
COCOLIFE

COCOLIFE AWARDEES CRUISE

While on an Asian cruise, Cocolife held its awarding ceremonies for 2001. The cruise, which is the prize given to awardees, took the Cocolife sales achievers group to Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Seen being given the award is Florida Castillo, agency manager of the year, while standing at left is husband Bert Castillo, who also received an award for regional branch manager. Also shown are Cocolife officials (from left) Marco Montes, AVP and Greater Luzon regional head, lawyer Alfredo Tumacder Jr., president, and Efren Yambot, first vice president, individual marketing division, and Allan Tauro, group head.

BITS Clips

Silliman Business Club luncheon

THE SILLIMAN University Alumni, Manila Chapter under the presidency of Noel Royandoyan invites alumni to a Silliman Business Club Luncheon on June 21, 11:30 a.m. at Shangri-La Makati. The networking luncheon is the first event formulated by the alumni chapter of Manila calling all Sillimanians occupying executive positions in the government, private sector, foundation, association, multinational companies and consultancy firms to attend the event. It hopes to bring fellow Sillimanians in a stronger business bonding relaltionship to promote expertise, friendship, and spiritual growth. For P950 you get lunch, a business directory, SU official vest and real Sillimanian bonding for two hours. For confirmation, e-mail zonito@hotmail.com or text Tito Cruz at 0917-6189158.

Ethnic foodfest at Robinsons Place

IN CELEBRATION of Philippine Independence Day and to promote a truly Filipino feast, Philtrade Exhibits is currently holding in Robinsons Place Manila original and authentic Philippine food in "Eatno", an ethnic food festival until June 28. The festival is located at the ground floor (near the supermarket). The public is invited to taste delicacies from Iloilo, Cebu, Bicol, Quezon, Ilocos, and Mindanao. Also available are traditional sweets and local wines. Complementing the fair are unique arts and crafts from different regions of the country. The fair is open to the public. Exhibit time is from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. For details, call 820-7879, 820-1570.

Product FILES

Swiss Miss Ice Cream Asia's fave

EVERYBODY'S favorite ice cream, Swiss Miss, captures the exotic taste of Ube and Macapuno with the New Swiss Miss Asian Favorites.

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APC AT COMMASIA 2002

American Power Conversion (APC), global leader in end-to-end infrastructure availability solutions, was among the major participants at the recently concluded CommAsia 2002 at the World Trade Center. The event was participated in by some of the most respected companies in the telecommunication and IT industries. APC showcased its line of uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) for data centers and facilities which include the Symmetra, Silcon Series, the Smart-UPS, Net Shelter rack mount solution and the new Smart-UPS online.

JONES LANG LASALLE
Makati Shangri-La
April 2002

RAFAEL SIGNS GEM OF A CONTRACT

Makati Shangri-La Manila and Rafael Jeweller recently signed a lease contract to locate the latter's newest showroom at the Mezzanine Level of the hotel. Jones Lang LaSalle facilitated the retail expansion of the tenant into the Makati Shangri-La. Shown are Richard Riley (left), general manager of Makati Shangri-La and Rafael Florencio, owner of Rafael Jeweller.

Pinyasan Festival at Daet

THE CAMARINES Norte Pineapple Festival Development Foundation Inc. and the Municipal Government of Daet is currently celebrating the 10th Pinyasan Festival until June 24. The highlights of the Festival are the Search for Ms Bicolandia Queen, a civic military parade, the pineapple float exhibition, pineapple street dancing, the parade of Bicol festivals, and town fiesta religious rites. Other activities during the festival are trade fairs, a talent search, a motorcycle exhibition, a scriptwriting workshop, sports tourneys, a singing contest, business forum, stage plays, job fairs, visual art exhibits, a food fair, and a flower drop and fashion show, among others. The chair for this year's Pinyasan Festival is Daet mayor Tito Sarion. The vice chair is vice mayor Felix Abogado.

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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2 MONSTERS BALL
3 SCOOBY DOO 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5 MURDER BY NUMBERS
6 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 MAGKAPATID

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 MONSTERS BALL
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 SCOOBY DOO
MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 21, 22, 28 & 29

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 SCOOBY DOO 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20
3 MURDER BY NUMBERS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:05, 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20
5 MONSTERS BALL 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20

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1 MAGKAPATID
2 KILABOT AT ANG KEMBOT

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2 MAGKAPATID
3

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A DISKARTE

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2 DISKARTE
3 MAMASAN
4

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
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1 (DOLBY) DISKARTE
2
3
4 I THINK IM IN LOVE
5 MAMASAN
6 MAGKAPATID
7 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
8 (SDDS) SUM OF ALL FEARS
9 (DOLBY) MONSTERS BALL

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508
2 DISKARTE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
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2 MAMASAN
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 (DOLBY) MAGKAPATID
7 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
8 SUPER B
9 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083
1 (DTS)
2
3
4 MAGKAPATID
5 (SDDS) SCOOBY DOO
6 DISKARTE
7 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 I THINK I'M IN LOVE

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795
1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK IM IN LOVE
5 (SDDS) SUM OF ALL FEARS

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(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 MAGKAPATID

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 DISKARTE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson MAMASAN
Lords I THINK I'M IN LOVE
Jennet

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 DISKARTE
2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
3

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238
1 (DOLBY) DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3
4 MAGKAPATID
5 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619
1
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6

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite
1 KILABOT AT KEMBOT
2 DISKARTE

Berma
tel 879.2029
1 DISKARTE
2 KILABOT AT KEMBOT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1
2

CINEMA 2000

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1 SCOOBY DOO
2 MAGKAPATID
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Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 MAGKAPATID
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
3 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 DISKARTE

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(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 MAGKAPATID
2 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 DISKARTE
2 SUPER B
3 MAGKAPATUD
4

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
2 DISKARTE
3 (DOLBY) MAGKAPATID
4 (DTS) MURDER BY NUMBER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) DISKARTE
2 MAMASAN
3
4 (DTS) MAGKAPATID

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 DISKARTE
5 I THINK IM IN LIVE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 MAGKAPATID
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 SCOOBY DOO

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1
2 KLABOT AT KEMBOT
3 BUKANG BIRIG

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1
2
3

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808
1 (DTS) I THINK IM IN LOVE
2 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 CLOSED

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SUPER B
2 MAGKAPATID
3 DISKARTE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
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2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 DISKARTE

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 (DTS) SCOOBY DOO
4 I THINK IM IN LOVE

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3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
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5 SCOOBY DOO
6 MAGKAPATID
7 DISKARTE
8 I THINK IM IN LOVE

SM CENTERPOINT
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1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUPER B
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MONSTERS BALL
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 I THINK IM IN LOVE
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
9 DISKARTE
10 MAMASAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749
1 SUPER B
2 A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 I THINK IM IN LOVE
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 SCOOBY DOO
9 DISKARTE
10 MAGKAPATID
11 MAMASAN
12 MONSTERS BALL

SM CITY MANILA
5239240
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 WALK TO REMEMBER
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 MONSTERS BALL
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS
7 DISKARTE
8 MAMASAN
9 MAGKAPATID
10 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
11 MAGKAPATID
12 SUPER B

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MONSTERS BALL
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
7 MURDER BY NUMBERS
8 SUPER B
9 MAGKAPATID
10 SCOOBY DOO
11 DISKARTE
12 I THINK IM IN LOVE

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9205452
1 SUPER B
2 MAGKAPATID
3 I THINK IM IN LOVE
4 DISKARTE
5 MONSTERS BALL
6 A WALK TO REMEMBER
7 SUM OF ALL FEARS
8 SCOOBY DOO
9 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888
1 I THINK IM IN LOVE
2 DISKARTE
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MAMASAN
6 RESIDENT EVIL
7 MAGKAPATID
8 SCOOBY DOO
9 SUPER B
10 MONSTERS BALL

SM CITY CEBU
2313876
1 PANIC ROOM
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 DRAGONFLY
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6 MAMASAN
7 MAGKAPATID
8 SCOOBY DOO

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422
1 CASS & CARRY
2 CLOSED
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 RESIDENT EVIL
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 MAGKAPATID
7 CLOSED
8 LIGAYA PANTASYA ...

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
5 DISKARTE
6 MAGKAPATID

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975
1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 SCOOBY DOO
4 DISKARTE

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SUPER B

SM CITY DAVAO
2076908
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 MAGKAPATID
3 MAMASAN
4 DRAGONFLY
5 CASS & CARRY
6 SCOOBY DOO

SM BICUTAN
1
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4
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1
2
3
4
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3 MONSTERS BALL
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 SCOOBY DOO
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
8 MAGKAPATID
9 RESIDENT EVIL
10 DISKARTE

Ermita 536 -7809- 12
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 DISKARTE
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 A WALK TO REMEMBER
5 MAGKAPATID
6 MONSTERS BALL
7 SCOOBY DOO

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280
1 DISKARTE
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 MONSTERS BALL
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SCOOBY DOO
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 MAGKAPATID

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
4 SUPER B
5 MAGKAPATID
6 MONSTERS BALL
7 A WALK TO REMEMBER
8 DISKARTE

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838
1 SUM OF ALLK FEARS
2 I THINK IM IN LOVE
3 MONSTERS BALL
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 DISKARTE
6 MAGKAPATID

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459
1 SUM OF ALL FEARS
2 SCOOBY DOO
3 MAGKAPATID
4 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
5 JIHAD WARRIOR
6 RESIDENT EVIL

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78
1 MAGKAPATID
2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
3 PANIC ROOM
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 CASS & CARRY
6 LIGAYA

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp 875- 1927 961-5318 / 5270
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2 DISKARTE
3 MAGKAPATID
4 SCOOBY DOO
5 SUM OF ALL FEARS
6 SUM OF ALL FEARS

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Sharon engages in thespic brinkmanship

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

SHARON Cuneta essays one of the most emotionally demanding roles in her career in her latest film, "Magkapatid." To her credit, she hits all the right emotive buttons, and shows various, even contradictory sides to her character, some of them not very likable.

This is quite daring on her part, because moviegoers here prefer their leading ladies to be true-blue protagonists and not semi-antagonists. And yet Sharon is able to engage in this kind of thespic brinkmanship while not turning off her audience, which generously "forgives" her character in the end.

Sharon's flaw in this movie is her decision to "attack" her really emotional scenes head-on, with previous few nuances and insightful moments of irony.

This all-stops-out approach is "for the fans," of course, and it does add power to her performance. But it is too facile a thespic choice. Her character would have revealed more of herself if the actress had decided to temper her all-out grief with other emotional shadings and insights.

In "Magkapatid," Sharon and **Judy Ann Santos** play loving sisters who live very different lives. Sharon has a wealthy husband (**Christopher de Leon**), a flourishing medical practice, and a son whom she loves to bits.

In contrast, Judy Ann is financially strapped, has a drummer (**Dingdong Dantes**) for a loving but improvident husband, and two sons (one of them sickly) to take care of.

Older sister Sharon keeps helping Judy Ann out with doleouts, and even makes it easy for Judy Ann and Dingdong to acquire their own duplex across the street from her elegant home.

She does this happily, out of the goodness of her heart—until something happens that sends her happy life into a tragic tailspin.

That "something" is the death by drowning of her son, while he's under Judy Ann's care. One of Judy Ann's children also dies in the boating accident, but this means nothing to Sharon. All she cares about is the fact that her only son is dead.

Immediately after the tragic accident, the "good" older sister turns nasty and blames Judy Ann for the death of her son. She cuts off all financial help to Judy Ann and Dingdong, and they are forced to live a life of penury.

Worse, Sharon shuts Christopher out of her pain, and he is eventually compelled to leave her. And, worst of all, Sharon forces Judy Ann to "give" her remaining son to her, as "recompense" for her own son's death.

It is at this point that the movie's dramatic developments turn turgidly melodramatic. But Sharon is still able to keep things fairly believable, despite some occasional excesses.

In the end, of course, Sharon finally realizes how unfair and even cruel she's been in allowing her grief to blind her and heap even more grief on herself and the people she loves.

This is clearly Sharon's film, so she has most of the dramatic highlights. Despite this, Judy Ann is still able to get in some thespic points.

Unfortunately, since this appears to have been conceptualized as a "woman's picture," the male leads are generally left in the periphery of the emotional action.

Movies on TV

ON the HBO channel: Wednesday, June 19, at 3:45 p.m., "Leap of Faith." 9 p.m., "In the Name of the Father."

Thursday, June 20, at 12 noon, "Patriot Games." 6:45 p.m., "Clear and Present Danger." 9 p.m., "Meet the Parents." 11 p.m., "Election." 12:45 a.m., "Magnolia."

Friday, June 21, at 6 a.m., "Tea with Mussolini." 4 p.m., "The Story of Us." 12:05 a.m., "Wayne's World."

On the Cinemax channel: Wednesday, June 19, 3:15 p.m., "Dr. Strangelove Or Now I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb." 5 p.m., "Coming to America." 3 a.m., "The Hi-lo Country."

Thursday, June 20, at 10 a.m., "Murder, She Wrote: A Story to Die For." 11:30 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Great Balls of Fire." 1:45 p.m., "Mad About Mambo."

Friday, June 21, at 11 a.m., "Cinemas of the World: The Agitators of the Realm." 3:15 p.m., "Moscow on the Hudson." 5 p.m., "I'll Do Anything." 12:35 a.m., "What Planet Are You From?" 2:15 a.m., "School Ties."

Bert Nievera at Country Waffles Rockwell

BERT Nievera, still one of the country's best balladeers, topbills the roster of live entertainers at Country Waffles Rockwell every Friday and Saturday this month.

Also performing are **Martin Avila** on Fridays and **Romy Posadas** on Saturdays. Show starts at 9 p.m. Call 898-0309.

SIBLING RIVALRY. Sharon Cuneta and Judy Ann Santos

'MAGKAPATID'

Sinister sisters

SHARON Cuneta's latest movie, "Magkapatid," which also stars Judy Ann Santos, is a departure from her goody-goody image and the characters she played in her previous movies.

Sharon and Judy Ann, as the movie title says, are sisters. Sharon, being the more affluent one, helps out Judy Ann in raising her family with her husband (Dingdong Dantes). Sharon, who plays a doctor, even helps them buy a townhouse in front of her house so they can be together and their children can play together.

Things take a sudden turn when Sharon's son and one of Judy Ann's two sons die in a boat accident. Sharon blames her sister for the death of her son.

A darker character evolves and Sharon clams up and completely ignores her sister and even her own husband (Christopher de Leon). Things also don't turn out well for Dingdong, who's a drummer in a band, and he and Judy Ann end up losing the townhouse.

Sharon completely reneges on her promise to help her sister buy the townhouse. She lives a life of denial, punishing herself, her family and even her friends. She becomes totally indifferent, cold and hard.

Sharon the actress admits the role is unlike anything she has done in her previous movies. It is a very demanding role and could earn for her an acting award.

Later on, Sharon's character focuses on Judy Ann's surviving son. Sharon demands that the boy become her adopted son as "payment" for the son she lost. Baffled, Christopher soon leaves Sharon.

Sharon's grim outlook even affects her profession, as she refuses to treat some patients and even her own sister Judy Ann, who is expecting another baby.

Sharon's character only lightens up when she is with her adopted son, who happens to be suffering from a heart ailment.

For her part, Judy Ann the actress underplays it and comes out effective in her dramatic moments with Sharon.

Dingdong's character as could have been made more interesting and fuller and longer.

Fred Samantela

COMING HOME. The CompanY returns to the CCP.

The CompanY to do Strauss, Yoyoy, OPM and others

By Moy Ortiz
Contributor

ON JUNE 25, two music legends meet: the Austrian waltz genius Johann Strauss, and the king of Philippine novelty songs Yoyoy Villame!

Strauss has been dead for 103 years now, but Yoyoy is alive and well. But they will be heard in one show, in "The CompanY Live at the CCP!" And their music performed in the same show is not even half the fun that The CompanY promises for that night.

This year's big concert of The CompanY runs the gamut of musical genres—baroque music from Bach, vintage punk from the B-52, opera excerpts from Strauss, The CompanY's very own OPM hits, a cappella showstoppers and many more.

In a strange way, The CompanY considers this performance both a homecoming and a back-to-the-roots concert for them.

Founding members Annie Quintos and Moy Ortiz remember that 17 years ago, a fresh-out-of-college CompanY had its very first "paid" performance right at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Right before the show, they were paid with gourmet pizza and pasta by one of the original sopranos, Kathleen Ng, whose family owned the now defunct Italian Village restaurant.

It was at one of these a cappella sets where Maestro Ryan Cayabyab hired the group as back-up singers for Celeste Legaspi, whose multi-media performance "Komiks Konsierto" was held at the CCP Main Theater.

"We were very fortunate that our first real, paying gig was big time immediately," says CompanY artistic director Moy Ortiz. "I mean, working with Ryan Cayabyab at the CCP didn't exactly spell skid row for us. It was a great break for the CompanY because within the next four months, we found ourselves singing background vocals for Gary Valenciano, Martin Nieverra, Kuh Ledesma, Zsa-Zsa Padilla and practically practically every '80s superstar you could think of."

Although 17 years have gone by since that first singing job, the CCP still holds a special place in the hearts of The CompanY, especially now that they are returning as stars of their own show.

Acquiring skills

The CompanY is no stranger to the world and discipline of classical and traditional choral music. Its members got their training and formal education in music as members of the Ateneo College Glee Club, UP Concert Chorus, Philippine Madrigal Singers and numerous other school and church choirs. They acquired their sight-reading and ear training skills (solfeggio) mainly under the masterful and strict baton of Prof. Joel Navarro.

"Withdrawal symptoms! I think that was what got this group started," explains soprano Annie Quintos. "Once we graduated from the university and we were off to our first corporate jobs, we really craved for music. If you've spent your entire college life singing in a choir, three times a week, with the occasional world concert tour in between, let's see you handle quitting cold turkey."

Instead of going out on dates and partying, the members chose to hook up with their col-

COMPANY/ A28

Joemari is first Pinoy to perform in Connecticut casino

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

MULTI-AWARDED singer-composer **Jose Mari Chan**has good news about his professional as well as personal life.

On June 29, Joemari will be the first Filipino to perform in the 4,000-seater Fox Theater at the Foxwoods Resort Casino in Connecticut.

Joemari has performed all over the US, including the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York in 1992. Last year, he did a concert at the famous Bellagio in Las Vegas. He also headlined a show at Showboat in Atlantic City. Early this year, he performed in Chicago.

The Filipino community in Connecticut will produce his concert at the Foxwoods Theater.

Joemari is in very good company. The Foxwoods Entertainment lineup from May to August this year includes big names in the international music scene. A day before his show, **Natalie Cole** will perform in the same venue. **Diana Ross** will a have concert there on July 19 and 20, with tickets at $110 each.

In May and early June were REO Speedwagon, **Trisha Yearwood** (who recorded the pop ballad "How Do I Live," the theme from the **Nicolas Cage** action starrer, "Con-Air"), pop band Sugar Ray, comedian **Martin Short** and **Jo Dee Messina**.

July will have **Linda Ronstadt**, **Peter Cetera**'s pop group Chicago, the rock band INXS and MTV winner **India.Arie**. **Pat Benatar** will take center stage in August.

Foxwoods is the largest resort casino in the world, with a sprawling complex that includes 1,400 guest rooms and suites, 24 restaurants and six casinos. It also boasts of having the world's largest bingo hall.

It opened in 1993 with a series of concerts by **Frank Sinatra**.

Joemari will leave for the US on Friday, June 21. His wife, **Mary Ann**, will join him a day later.

Joemari, however, will be away for less than two weeks. He will return to Manila right after the concert to oversee his sugar business.

The other good news? His daughter-in-law, **Anna Patricia Buñag** who is married to his eldest son and namesake, **Joe**, gave birth to a bouncing baby girl, **Ramona Isabel Chan**.

Joemari's granddaughter was born June 12, so he calls her an "Independence Day" baby.

"Now I'm a real *lolo,*" he said.

His eldest child **Lisa,** who got married last January, is due to give birth early next year.

"So that makes two grandchildren right away in a span of one year," Joemari said.

Lisa recorded the hit "Christmas in Our Hearts" duet with her father. It has become a favorite Yuletide tune and its CD continues to sell every holiday season.

Joemari's other children are **Michael, Angelika** and **Franco**. Only Michael followed in his dad's footsteps and pursued a singing career. He released a solo album, "Five Corners," from BMG Records Pilipinas.

So far, Joemari has a total of 37 platinum record awards for "Constant Change," "Christmas in Our Hearts" and "Thank You Love."

Early this year, he released his latest album, "A Hearts Journey," from Universal Records. Still selling briskly is "Souvenirs," a CD compilation of nostalgic tunes.

CHAN. Joins the Foxwoods Theater lineup with Natalie Cole and Diana Ross.

Recuperating

RAMON "RJ" Jacinto recently suffered a minor heart attack that required an angioplasty. But the businessman and music icon is already recuperating.

RJ was sidelined from his Friday night shows at the Lobby Lounge of Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, where he attracts a loyal following every week. He performs hits from the '60s to the present, including the music of the Beatles and Beach Boys, mixed with the songs of **Enrique Iglesias** and **Carlos Santana**, plus Top 40 tunes.

"The crowd was phenomenal and beyond my imagination," RJ told us.

He said he would definitely return to the series in July. Joining him onstage is a new, six-member band called RJ and Friends, composed of veteran musicians who performed with him before, including guitarist **Ben Tesoro** of the Hi-Jacks. Others in the group are former Parliament Syndicate singer **Carol Navea**, **Carlo Gaa** on keyboards, **Rolly Roldan** on bass and **Benjie Evia** on drums.

RJ says his repertoire is also a reflection of the programming of the RJ-FM 100.3 station, which showcases four decades of music.

Correction

THE CONCERT of Grammy Award-winning jazz diva **Diana Krall,** which was originally set for last Sunday, will be moved to July 21, not Aug. 16 as earlier reported in this column.

The one-night show, to be produced by Studio 23, will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater.

Krall, a native of Vancouver, Canada, has seven albums to her name, including a tribute to **Nat King Cole** and a collection of holiday tunes.

She will perform selections from her quintuple platinum album, "The Look of Love."

Reservations can be made through studio23@pinoycentral.com.

Brian McKnight-Regine concert now on video

"TWO for the Knight," the successful Valentine's Day concert which featured R&B singer Brian McKnight and Asia's songbird Regine Velasquez, is now on original VHS and VCD formats, released by Viva Video.

The company is also the exclusive distributor of blockbuster movies of 20th Century Fox on DVDs.

Get original copies in all leading video stores nationwide.

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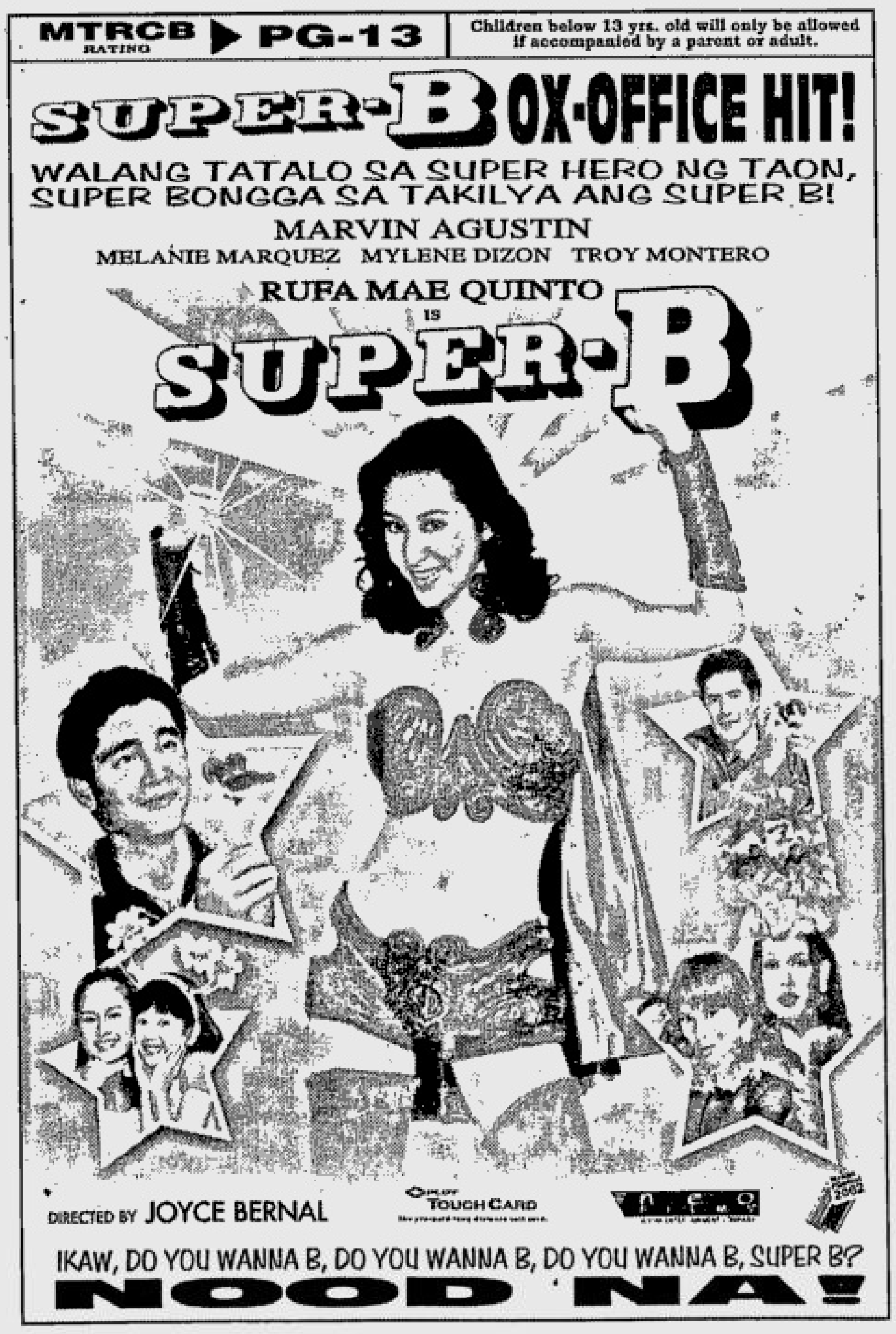
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	SCOOBY-DOO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SUM OF ALL FEARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MONSTERS BALL
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	SCOOBY-DOO
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	DISKARTE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX MEDUSA / HIYAS SA PARAISO
ODEON	SUM OF FEAR
ODEON-2	MAMASAN
ROBEN	DISKARTE
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAMASAN
REMAR	DISKARTE
REMAR-2	MAMASAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	DISKARTE
B	MAGKAPATID
C	SUPER B
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SCOOBY-DOO
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	MAMASAN
CINEMA-3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUPER B
CINEMA-6	UTANG NI TATANG
CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-8	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-12	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-14	DISKARTE
CINEMA-15	SUPER B
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	STAR WARS: EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

MTRCB RATING ▶ GP GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON DINGDONG DANTES
NO.1
Pinupuri ng mga kritiko
Pinipilahan ng mga tao!
Nagiiyakan, Nagtatawanan, Nagmamahalan.
SHARON CUNETA JUDY ANN SANTOS
MAGKAPATID
DIRECTED BY JOEL LAMANGAN DGPI
SHOWING NA NATIONWIDE!
RECORD-BREAKING
CERTIFIED
BLOCKBUSTER HIT!
DUNKIN' DONUTS
FUJIFILM
VIVA


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
SUPER-BOX-OFFICE HIT!
WALANG TATALO SA SUPER HERO NG TAON,
SUPER BONGGA SA TAKILYA ANG SUPER B!
MARVIN AGUSTIN
MELANIE MARQUEZ MYLENE DIZON TROY MONTERO
RUFA MAE QUINTO IS SUPER-B
DIRECTED BY JOYCE BERNAL
IKAW, DO YOU WANNA B, DO YOU WANNA B, DO YOU WANNA B, SUPER B?
NOOD NA!

MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18 Strictly for Adults only
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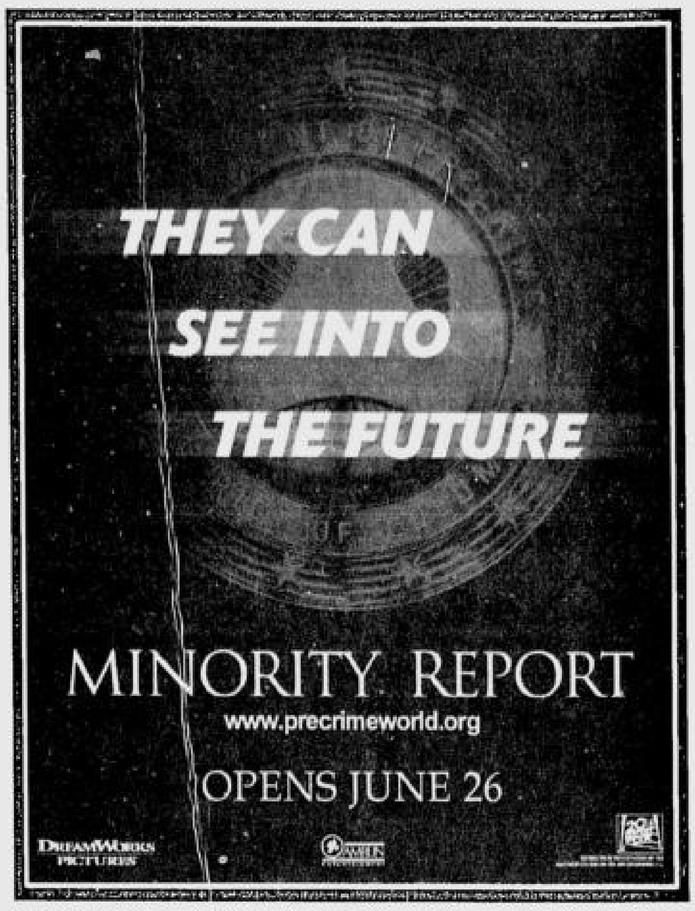
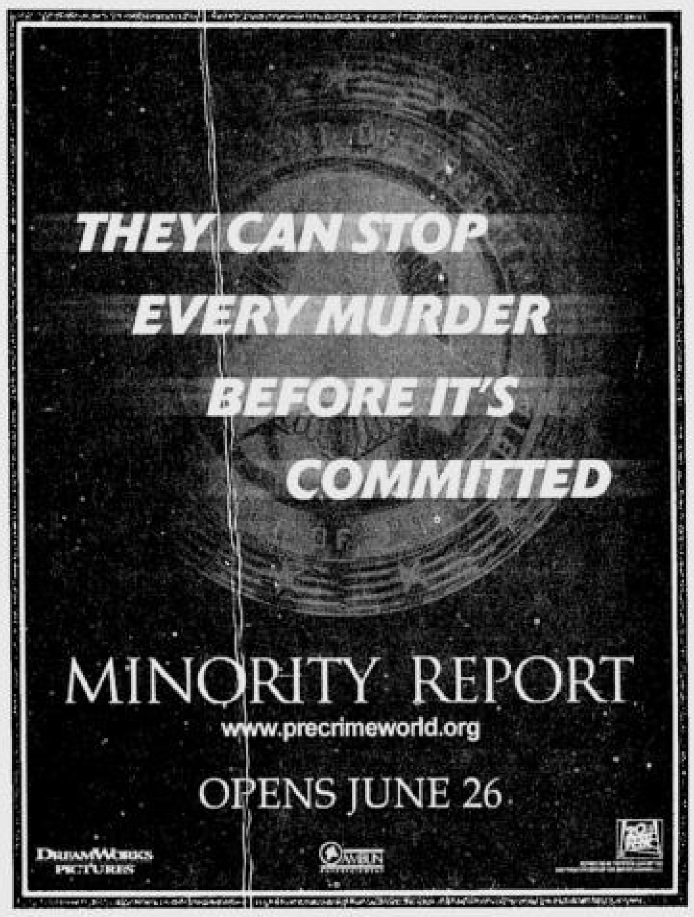
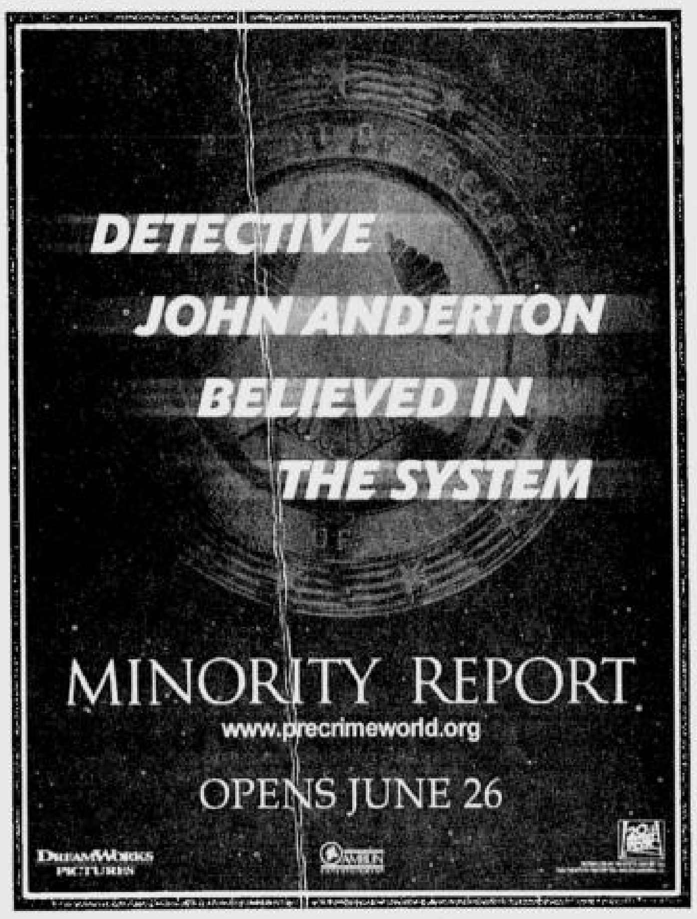
VOTED AS THE FIRST AMONG THE WORLD'S 50 SEXIEST WOMEN OF 2002!
ACADEMY AWARD WINNER
BEST ACTRESS - HALLE BERRY
BERRY IS BOLD! SHE'LL SHOCK YOU!!
BILLY BOB THORNTON HEATH LEDGER HALLE BERRY
MONSTER'S BALL
United by tragedy. Bound by love.


THEY CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE
MINORITY REPORT
www.precrimeworld.org
OPENS JUNE 26


THEY CAN STOP EVERY MURDER BEFORE IT'S COMMITTED
MINORITY REPORT
www.precrimeworld.org
OPENS JUNE 26


DETECTIVE JOHN ANDERTON BELIEVED IN THE SYSTEM
MINORITY REPORT
www.precrimeworld.org
OPENS JUNE 26

UNTIL THE SYSTEM CAME AFTER HIM
MINORITY REPORT
www.precrimeworld.org
EVERYBODY RUNS
OPENS JUNE 26
DREAMWORKS PICTURES

The CompanY . . .

From page A27

lege buddies and make music. "Start with what you know," says an adage and that is exactly what The CompanY did when they decided to meet up three times a week after office hours. They started with a lot of light classics and a cappella fare before moving on to vocal jazz.

Dreaming

In 1985, the American vocal group Manhattan Transfer was still at the peak of its popularity, and The CompanY emulated their music heroes' predilection for vocal jazz. Jazz diva Louie Reyes and her husband, Cesar de la Fuente, became the group's managers in their first nine years. It seemed inevitable that The CompanY would manifest a strong jazz influence.

"We've been dreaming of doing a classical and jazz concert for about a year and a half now but we were always concerned about getting the right venue and the right time," says soprano Sweet Plantado. "Suddenly, our prayers were all answered when we got a call from Ms Menchie Mantaring of CCP. We were just over the moon!"

The group guarantees an evening of top-rate entertainment and hilarity in the CCP show.

"Please don't get us wrong and think that this is a desperate bid for respectability and credibility in serious cerebral music and high art," says alto Cecile Bautista. "That has never been part of our agenda. I mean, hello?"

Irreverent

The challenge to The CompanY is to present and perform a classical/jazz/a cappella concert in a very entertaining yet musically credible manner. To accomplish this, they have been rehearsing for three months now.

Still, this CompanY concert will still be very CompanY in treatment: slightly irreverent, a bit off tangent at times and highly entertaining.

The CompanY is Sweet Plantado, Annie Quintos, Cecile Bautista, Reuben Laurente, Andre Castillo and Moy Ortiz. It is managed by Boy Abunda's Backroom Inc.

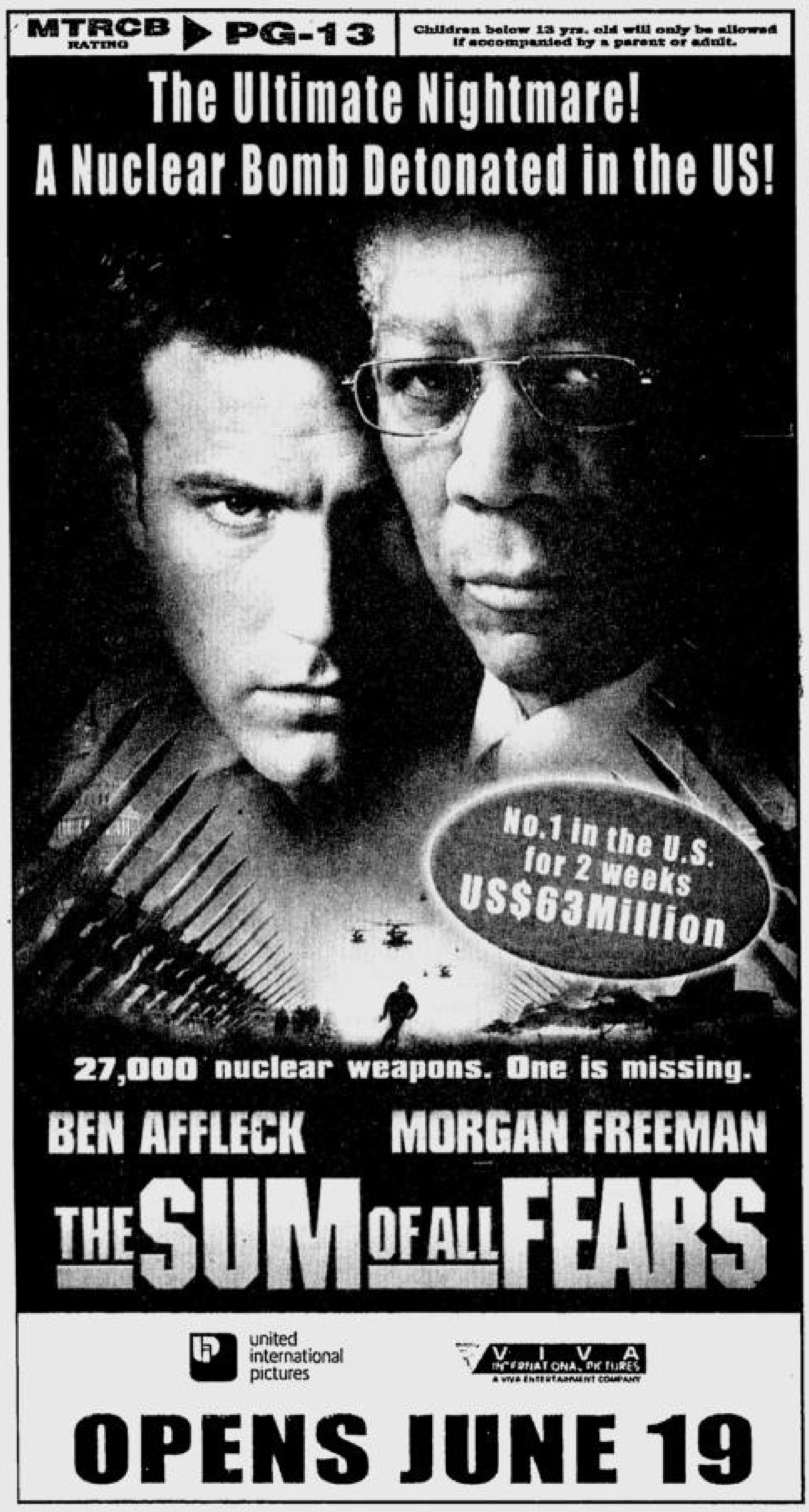
"The Company Live at the CCP!" is a production of the CCP under the Special Concerts Series 2002.

Tickets are available at the CCP, Ticketworld in National Bookstore Outlets and at Tower Records.

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 1:40,4:20, 7:00,9:40	SCOOBY -DOO - GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
MONSTERS'S BALL - R18 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	SCOOBY -DOO - GP 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00,	SUM OF ALL FEARS - P13 11:30,2:10, 4:50,7:30, 10:10

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
The Ultimate Nightmare!
A Nuclear Bomb Detonated in the US!
No.1 in the U.S. for 2 weeks US$63Million
27,000 nuclear weapons. One is missing.
BEN AFFLECK
MORGAN FREEMAN
THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
OPENS JUNE 19

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Angelina Jolie
Edward Burns
What if you got a chance to discover who you really are?
Life or Something Like it
SNEAK PREVIEW !!! JUNE 24 & 25
OPENS JULY 3

THEATRE MALL
DOLBY DIGITAL

1	SCOOBY-DOO 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, GP
2	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00 P 13

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

MUSIC MUSEUM

JUNE 28 & 29	FALSETTOS (New Voice Company)	8:30 PM

GRAND OPENING TODAY !!!
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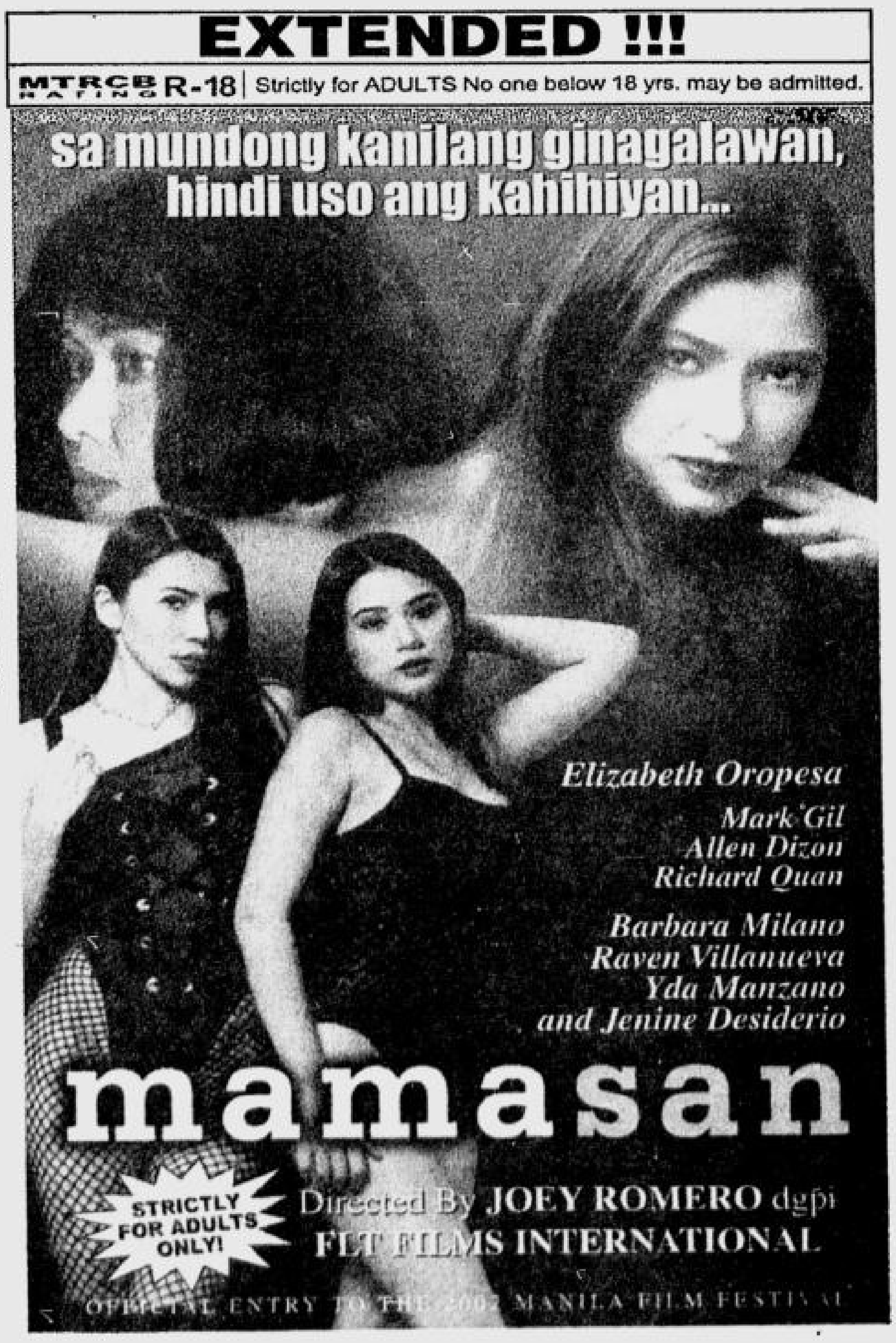
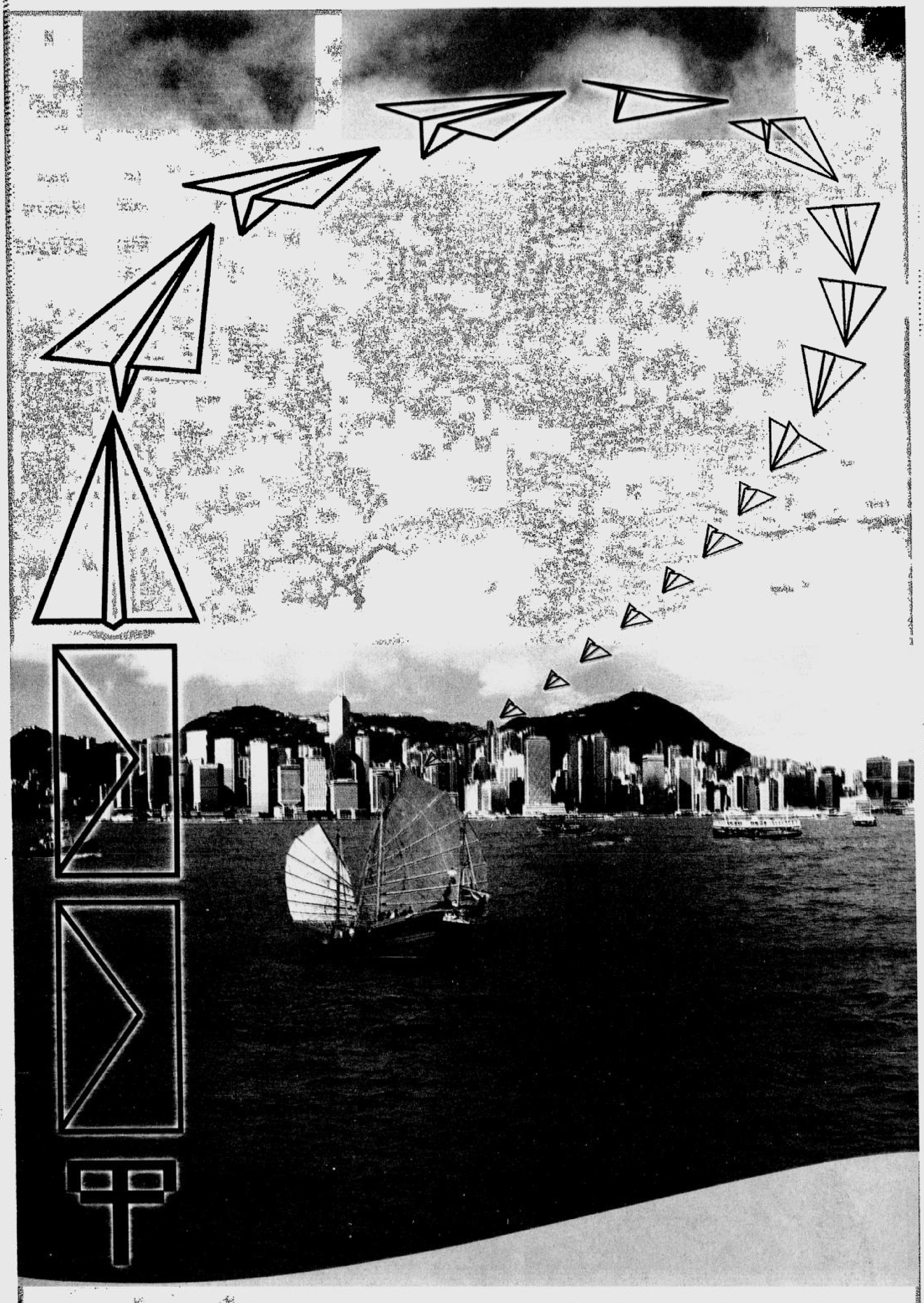
ALL AGES ADMITTED
A HERO WILL RISE. ON FOUR LEGS.
SCOOBY-DOO
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
mossimo


EXTENDED !!!
MTRCB RATING R-18
Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
sa mundong kanilang ginagalawan,
hindi uso ang kahihiyan...
Elizabeth Oropesa
Mark Gil
Allen Dizon
Richard Quan
Barbara Milano
Raven Villanueva
Yda Manzano
and Jenine Desiderio
mamasan
STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY!
Directed By JOEY ROMERO dgpi
FLT FILMS INTERNATIONAL
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 2002 MANILA FILM FESTIVAL



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WEDNESDAY,
JUNE 19, 2002

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◈ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

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Tels. [illegible]
AMABANK
AMA Rural Bank of Mandaluyong, Inc.

MVP, Cojuangco off to Tokyo to woo NTT

By Doris C. Dumlao

EMBATTLED Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel V. Pangilinan and chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco are leaving for Tokyo tonight to formulate a joint strategy with Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. to foil a takeover bid by the Gokongwei group.

A source from the Pangilinan camp yesterday said the Manila contingent would stay in Tokyo for a few days and discuss the implications of the $925-million deal hatched by First Facific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong that would yield a controlling stake in PLDT and property developer Bonifacio Land Co. to the Gokongweis.

NTT, the second biggest stockholder in PLDT with a 15-percent stake after First Pacific's 24.47 percent, has reportedly indicated to the Pangilinan camp its opposition to the deal but has yet to formally disclose its position.

Other INQUIRER sources said that after the PLDT stockholders' meeting last week where MVP, as Pangilinan is referred to by colleagues, was able to rally support from employees and stockholders, the Japanese firm had become more convinced that it should take more decisive steps against the impending Gokongwei takeover.

The sources also said that NTT has started to send stronger signals that it might exercise its right of first refusal, albeit as a policy, the Japanese telecommunications giant had said it would refrain from huge offshore investments this year.

Another factor favoring Pangilinan's camp, the sources noted, was that most Japanese firms, notably NTT's biggest supplier NEC, was strongly lobbying against the Gokongwei group's entry.

To date, however, First Pacific has yet to provide NTT a copy of the memorandum of agreement with the Gokongwei camp that would be used as the basis of any right of first refusal. Once formally served, NTT has the option to match the offer within a 20-day period.

Even the Gokongwei group has acknowledged that only an exercise of first refusal by NTT would stop its binding agreement with First Pacific.

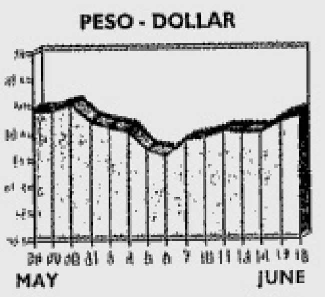
But the sources said the NTT-Pangilinan tandem would firm up legal strategies rather than any counter-offer during the meetings in Tokyo.

Sources from Hong Kong earlier said that First Pacific, which was itself wooing NTT support, did not believe that the Japanese firm would be a big stumbling block, specially since the shareholder agreement with NTT would expire by March 2003.

The source from the Pangilinan camp also said the local property unit of First Pacific Co. Ltd., Metro Pacific Corp., would use the "sweeping powers" given by the shareholders to the MPC board last week to block a due-diligence audit by the Gokongwei group, similar to the legal blockade put in place by affiliate PLDT.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.15 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 18, 2002

¥ 124.54 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 18, 2002

GOLD: $317.50/318.00
per ounce Hong Kong, June 18, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares down slightly

SHARE prices fell slightly yesterday after a report of a fresh kidnapping of foreigners by suspected Abu Sayyaf Muslim gunmen, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index dropped 0.24 points to 1,250.57.

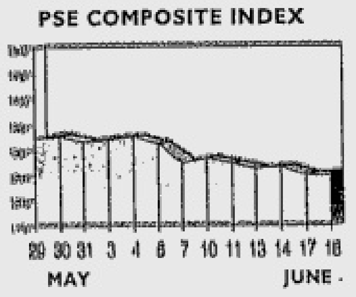
"There is no improvement in market sentiment. People are still hesitant to enter the market. There was also a new kidnapping," said Henry Ong of KGI Securities Inc.

Four Indonesian crewmen of a tugboat towing a barge full of coal, were kidnapped by armed men on motorboats in the waters off Mindanao.

The armed men are suspected to be members of the Abu Sayyaf Muslim kidnap gang which is notorious for its abductions of foreigners and Christians in the South.

"Investors are playing it safe. There was just an influx of bad news: the additional concerns on the budget deficit and the abductions," said Astro del Castillo of A and A Securities Inc.

Turnover rose to 394.2 million shares but value fell to P294.8 million from 350.88 million shares worth P408.03 million on Monday. *AFP*



(See stock market report on Page B2)

▨ SM, FBDC to sign Fort Boni retail complex deal in 30 days /B2
▨ Cuisia's new crusade /B3

Gov't eyes lifting of AUV tax perks

By Clarissa S. Batino

HOBBLED by the impasse on planned amendments to the law on excise taxes on automobiles, the Department of Finance is back to square one and is again planning to plug the loopholes in automotive excise taxes by tightening, through an administrative measure, the regulation on 10-seater vehicles.

The move to cap the revenue losses on excise tax exemptions by allowing the BIR to issue a new regulation originally scheduled in January was recalled by Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho in February.

Finance officials, INQUIRER sources said, would meet late this week to decide whether it would finally give the BIR the go-ahead to issue a new revenue regulation that would lift the tax exemption on 10-seater vehicles.

This time, the finance department is training its guns on the new CRV model of Honda Cars Philippines Corp. The source said the tax exemptions given to the vehicle launched by Honda in April clearly reflected the

GOV'T/ B5

JOB HUNTING REUTERS

Filipino job seekers look at job advertisements at the Department of Labor and Employment center in Manila. The Philippines' unemployment rate rose to 13.9 percent in April from 13.3 percent a year ago and was up sharply from 10.3 percent in January this year, preliminary labor force survey results showed on Monday.

Zoom
Irmscher spoilers, side skirts, air dam, Irmscher logo radiator grille insert, an aluminum steering wheel and center console. The 2002 Opel Astra iSport Limited Edition. It looks fast standing still.
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City of San Fernando, Pampanga
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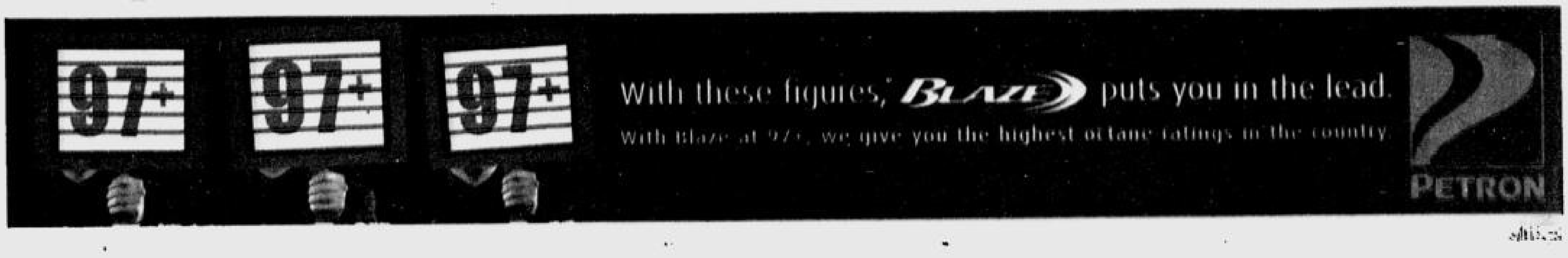
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PETRON

SM, FBDC to sign Fort Boni retail complex deal in 30 days

By Doris C. Dumlao

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. and the group of retail tycoon Henry Sy are expected to sign a joint venture agreement on the development of a retail complex within the Fort Bonifacio Global City in the next 30 to 40 days.

Sources privy to the negotiations said yesterday that the deal was comparable to the joint venture agreement earlier forged with Robinsons Land Corp., whose founder, John Gokongwei Jr. is in the midst of a twin takeover bid for FBDC parent firm Bonifacio Land Co. and telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The sources said that the SM group, which also owns mall chain operator SM Prime Holdings Inc., would likely put up in Fort Bonifacio a high-end mall similar to the Podium in Ortigas City instead of the usual middle-end retail complex.

The Podium mall, a venture with the Keppel group of Singapore, started operating early this year. It marked the SM group's diversification into high-end retail development.

FBDC, a joint venture between BLC (which is 73 percent owned by the Metro Pacific Corp.) and the state-owned Bases Conversion Development Authority, is keen on incorporating a vast retail component in the Global City development through a combination of land lease, purchase or joint venture development deals.

The source said a similar deal involving the development of a department store chain would likely be forged within the next three months. It is also expected to finalize an agreement on a hotel complex development in the next four months.

Aside from the SM and Gokongwei groups, FBDC was earlier reported to be in talks with big foreign retailers like Wal-mart Stores Inc. of the US and Tesco Plc. of the UK for the establishment of big-box stores in the Global City.

SM is among the groups that had reportedly offered to help PLDT and MPC president Manuel V. Pangilinan in his bid to foil a Gokongwei takeover, particularly eyeing the BLC component of the deal.

MPC's parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong has committed to transfer to a joint venture to be controlled by the Gokongweis a 50.4-percent stake in the local unit's core subsidiary BLC.

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DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Abacus Consolidated Resources & Holdings** were Manuel de Leon, Jose Fernando Camus, Calixto Laureano, Ricardo Leong, Jose Romero Jr., Rodrigo Reyes, Iluminado Montemayor, Benjamin Zarraga, Leonardo Gayao, Martha Horrigan and Clarita Zarraga.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Chinatrust Philippines Commercial Bank Corp.** were Jeffrey Koo, Thomas Chen, William Go, Joey Bermudez, Steve Chou, Morris Li, Yung Fang Yang and Rodney Ming-Hsiang Lu.

* * *

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. announced the resignation of Delfin Paycana as director, president and CEO of the company. He also relinquished his other positions in the company's different subsidiaries.

* * *

WISE Holding Inc. moved its annual stockholders meeting from July 31 to Oct. 8.

* * *

MANILA Broadcasting Co. moved its regular stockholders' meeting to Aug.1 at 3 p.m. The company also said it would move to its new headquarters at Philcite, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

* * *

ATN Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 11, 3 p.m. at the Yuchengco Institute for Advance Studies, Level 5 Podium 4, RCBC Plaza, Makati City. Only stockholders of record as of May 31 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Racing Club Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 24, 4 p.m. at the VIP Room of PRCI Santa Ana Park, Makati City. Stockholders of record as of June 28 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

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Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	70,000	100,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	100,000	110,000
Camp John Hay	250,000	300,000
Canlubang	500,000	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	120,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	Please Call	Please Call
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	230,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	270,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	13,500,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,750,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	700,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	-
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	550,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	190,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	Please Call	550,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,850,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	-
Tagaytay Midlands	740,000	850,000
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)		180,000
Valley Golf	270,000	350,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	Please Call

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, June 18, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	20	20	20	20	396,100
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	100	100	100	100	100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	52.5	52.5	52	52	303,900
China Banking Corp.	630	630	630	630	350
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	36	36	36	36	21,500
First E-Bank Corp.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	60,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36	36.5	35.5	36.5	96,000
Philippine National Bank	36.5	36.5	36	36	11,600
Phil. Savings Bank	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	100
Security Bank Corp.	14.5	14.5	14	14	1,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	22.5	22.5	557,100
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.32	40,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	205	222	205	206	170
Manulife Financial Corp.	1400	1400	1400	1400	220
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1090	1115	1090	1110	1,640
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.66	0.78	0.66	0.77	13,630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	640	640	630	635	11,100
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	14,000
Piltel	0.36	0.4	0.36	0.4	7,720,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	400	410	400	405	50,180
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	12,600,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	22.5	23	22.5	23	22,800
Manila Electric Co. B	34.5	34.5	34	34	579,000
Petron Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.68	1.7	1,344,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.6	1.64	1.6	1.64	120,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	130,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.44	2.44	2.4	2.42	642,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	30,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.6	0.66	0.6	0.66	30,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	250,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	20,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.72	1.7	1.7	1,039,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	800,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.75	13.5	13.75	32,600
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	395,000
RFM Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.06	464,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	87,200
San Miguel Corp. B	55	55.5	55	55.5	17,400
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	1,308,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.34	2.34	2.32	2.32	4,247,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.48	2.6	402,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.51	1,290,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	130,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.75	23	22.5	22.75	139,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.22	0.16	0.22	230,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	250,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.64	1.72	1.64	1.72	5,971,000
Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.77	0.78	0.76	0.78	3,630,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.34	0.3	0.34	10,060,000
Music Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	330,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	100,000
Pryce Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	2,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9	9	9	9	6,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	50,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.47	0.47	30,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
Philippine Racing Club	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	200,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	25.5	25.5	25.5	25.5	711,800
Equitable PCI Bank-War	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	260,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	795	795	780	780	1,860
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,200
PLDT 10% Pref Series 8b	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	500
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.2	6	6.1	10,719,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2	2	2	2	12,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.48	2.5	2.48	2.5	3,267,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	10,000
City & Land Developers	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	40,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.78	36,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5,150,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	16,700,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	430,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	39,000,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.003	0.0032	225,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	1,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,496,580	43,523,750.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	71,689,540	146,737,630.00
PRO	19,404,000	102,718,200.00
Mining	61,130,000	834,600.00
OIL	240,220,000	773,800.00
GRAND TOTALS:	393,940,120	294,587,980.00

AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	504.99	DOWN 2.01
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,731.00	UP 0.28
PRO	537.24	UP 0.73
Mining	1,262.29	DOWN 5.89
OIL	1.21	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	728.53	UP 10.36
Composite	1,250.57	DOWN 0.24

NO. OF ADVANCES: 24; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 45; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 92; NO. OF TRADES: 1,724

CURRENCIES

June 18, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.058873	1.000000	50.3650
Japan	Yen	0.008515	0.008042	0.4050
United Kingdom	Pound	1.566709	1.479600	74.5201
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135758	0.128210	6.4573
Switzerland	Franc	0.677505	0.639836	32.2253
Canada	Dollar	0.684690	0.646621	32.5671
Singapore	Dollar	0.592046	0.559128	28.1605
Australia	Dollar	0.590231	0.557414	28.0742
Bahrain	Dinar	2.808832	2.652661	133.6013
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.282359	0.266660	13.4303
Brunei	Dollar	0.590659	0.557818	28.0945
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000115	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.025122	0.023725	1.1949
UAE	Dirham	0.288302	0.272272	13.7130
Korea	Won	0.000871	0.000823	0.0415
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.000000	50.3650
Argentina	Peso	0.299117	0.282486	14.2274
Brazil	Real	0.395841	0.373832	18.8280
Denmark	Kroner	0.134477	0.127000	6.3964
India	Rupee	0.021645	0.020442	1.0296
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.278688	0.263193	13.2557
Mexico	New Peso	0.110300	0.104167	5.2464
New Zealand	Dollar	0.211212	0.482789	24.3157
Norway	Kroner	0.134964	0.127460	6.4195
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017663	0.016681	0.8401
South Africa	Rand	0.100348	0.094769	4.7730
Sweden	Kroner	0.106250	0.104474	5.2618
Syria	Pound	0.020661	0.019512	0.9827
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031236	0.029499	1.4857
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000879	0.000830	0.0418

Cuisia's new crusade

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE OPUS Dei faith of ex-Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia has been worked up again, this time over the alleged infidel overlords of the strife-ridden Manila Polo Club.

Cuisia has raised the banner of "good governance and moral regeneration" under the leadership of ex-Foreign Affairs Secretary Roberto Romulo in their attempt to capture the Polo Club board in this August election.

In addition to Romulo and Cuisia, former Ambassadors Jesus Tambunting and Isabel Caro Wilson, and investment banker Roman Azanza have been drafted into the ticket.

The five are specially miffed after the current board, taking a leaf from their counterparts in the Baguio Country Club, turned down a request of former Trade Secretary Rizalino Navarro and his team of SGV-Arthur Andersen-trained auditors to examine the club's books.

Romulo, who is in Europe as of the time of this writing, promises to be back by Friday afternoon in time for another "town-hall meeting" at the Polo Club sports lounge.

Five of the nine board seats are up for grabs in the August elections. Given the messy wholesale firing of the entire food and beverage department (come to think of it, firings are by definition messy affairs), the Cuisia-Romulo team thinks it has a good chance of snatching the board from the non-Makati Business Club types who have been lording it over what used to be the exclusive playing field of the old rich.

Page-turner

IN CASE you are wondering why the Page One sign at the landmark Rockwell shop has been missing for some time now, it is because the bookstore's shingle has been literally taken away.

According to the grapevine, local franchisee Jaime Daez and his Page One principals had a serious falling out over pricing and supply issues, prompting the Singapore-based principals to strip Daez of the franchise.

Even without his Singaporean principals, Daez has been able to restock the shop by bringing in two shipments of books he imported directly from publishers.

Daez, who also owns Bibliarch, a coffee-table bookstore, plans to continue with the Rockwell bookstore venture even without a foreign partner and is now mulling over a possible new name—Front Page?—to replace

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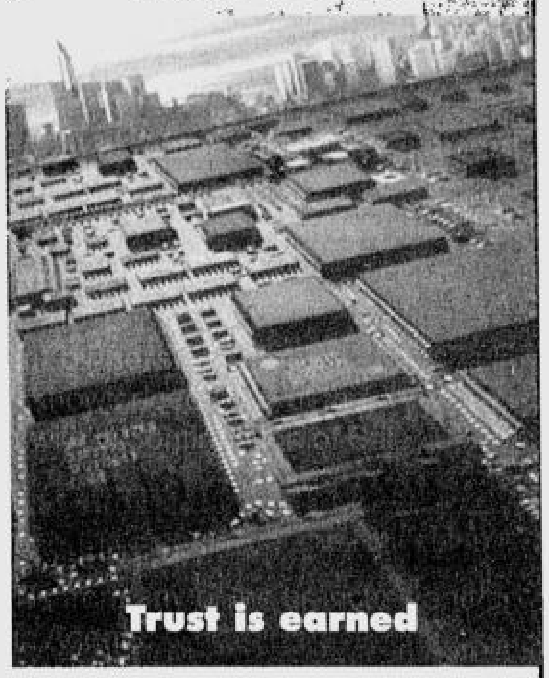

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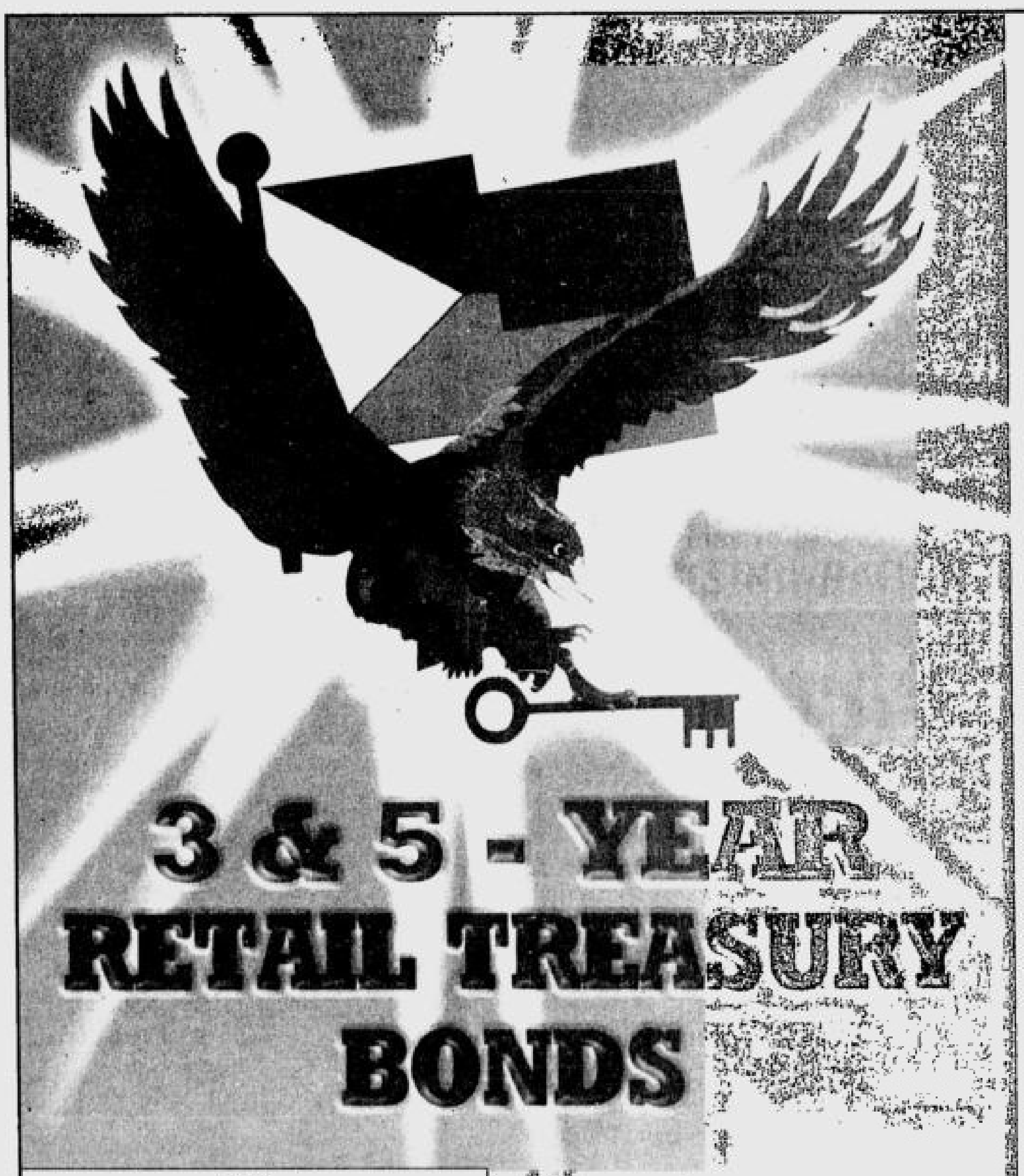

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PCI Capital Corporation
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818-9511 loc. 2426 & 2415

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Investment Corporation
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3. **Who can purchase RTBs?**
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4. **Can an investor purchase any tenor of the RTBs?**
Yes, an investor can purchase one tenor (3 & 5 years) or a combination of tenors of the RTBs.

5. **How does an investor participate in the Public Offering?**
The investor fills up an Application to Purchase Form and submits this together with 2 valid IDs and payment to any of the Selling Agents. Additional requirements for institutional investors are copies of Board Resolutions indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures.

6. **After the Public Offering, can an investor still buy or sell RTBs?**
Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.

7. **What is an investor's proof of ownership?**
The investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).

8. **Where can an investor purchase RTBs?**
An investor can purchase RTBs from any of the branches and/or business centers of the Selling Agents.

Amalie, Mitsubishi sign lubricant supply deal

By Gil C. Cabacungan jr.

AMERICAN lubricant giant Amalie Oil Co., through its Philippine licensee, Pro Oil Corp., and Mitsubishi Motor Philippines Inc. have signed a multibillion-peso contract to supply the Japanese car assembler's synthetic oil requirements in the Philippines and Asia.

During the signing of an agreement between Pro-Oil and Mitsubishi, Amalie chair Harry Barkett Sr. said he was optimistic the deal would boost his company's sales in Asia, which he forecast would grow five-fold by the end of next year.

Barkett said he expected sales in Asia to reach 25 million liters a year by the end of next year from between 4 million and 5 million liters this year. He said Asia's share of Amalie's overall sales should expand from 5 percent to as much as 30 percent next year.

Florida-based Amalie, the world's largest independent blender with a capacity of roughly a billion liters, has been in the motor oil business for 99 years and is one of the leading players of this highly competitive industry in North and Latin America. About 60 percent of its current sales are from the United States.

While Amalie had been present in over 80 countries, Barkett said it was only in the last two years that it aggressively expanded into Asia, specifically China, Hong Kong, India, Thailand and the Philippines.

"We believe Asia has the best growth potential among all markets worldwide," Barkett said.

Mitsubishi senior vice president for marketing Melchor Dizon said Mitsubishi chose Amalie because it had the highest grade of synthetic oil available in the market. This is highly recommended for turbo-charged engines like those installed in the Pajero and Strada models, he said.

"Amalie, through Pro Oil, gave us a special blend that would meet our specifications and to ensure maximum performance for our vehicles," he said.

Pro Oil general manager Joven Babaan said Pro-Oil and Amalie were more flexible in meeting the demanding lubricant requirements of vehicle makers unlike the oil giants.

DOF mulls securitizing ₱12B in earnings of DOTC agencies

By Clarissa S. Batino

PRESSED to raise revenues for the government, the Department of Finance is reportedly planning to securitize over P12 billion worth of annual fees collected by three agencies under the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Persons familiar with the matter revealed yesterday that Citibank NA was interested in handling the securitization of the annual collection of the three agencies.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho has admitted that the government is already scouting for non-tax sources of revenues, including privatization and securitization.

The finance department is planning to securitize the annual income of P5 billion each of the National Telecommunications Commission and Land Transportation Office, and about P2 billion that the Air Transportation Office earns each year.

The NTC collects franchise fees from telecom firms, while the LTO generates profits from motor vehicle registration. The ATO's earnings mostly come from giving out aircraft landing rights.

Securitization will allow the government to front-load revenues from investors who will be paid a certain interest for advancing the income stream for five years, for instance.

US firms see recovery by mid-2003

SINGAPORE—US companies in Southeast Asia expect a regional and global economic recovery by the middle of next year, if not sooner, and many plan to boost investment and employment this year, according to a survey released Tuesday.

The survey by the Gallup Organization polled American Chambers of Commerce members in Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

It shows that US companies are optimistic about growth prospects for the region and suggested that investment plans have not been shelved despite recent economic turmoil and security concerns that followed the arrests of suspected terrorists in Singapore and Malaysia for allegedly targeting US installations in the city-state.

"The principal findings show a very strong positive outlook for growth in the region," said Nicholas de Boursac, managing director of the American Chamber in Singapore.

The four American Chambers were surveyed in late April. Their members represent an estimated $60 billion in investment in Southeast Asia.

Eighty-six percent of the respondents said they expected local and global economies to recover by mid-2003, with half of them forecasting a recovery this year.

Seventy-three percent said they anticipated their businesses would expand, with much focus directed toward China.

Nearly a third of the respondents expect to increase their workforce this year, while 52 percent forecast no change and only 16 percent anticipate staff cuts. The figures suggest that overall employment in Southeast Asia may start to improve by the end of this year.

However, representatives of US companies expressed "intense dissatisfaction with corruption and local protectionism" in Southeast Asia, with the exception of Singapore, which was lauded for its "incorruptible image and behavior." *AP*

BPI-Mitsui launch new insurance unit

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands and Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co. of Japan formally launched yesterday BPI/MS Insurance Corp., a joint venture poised to become the country's second largest non-life insurance company.

BPI and Mitsui Sumitomo entered into a joint venture last year to form BPI/MS, which combined the operations of FGU Insurance Corp. and FEB Mitsui Marine Insurance Co.

BPI owns 51 percent of BPI/MS, while Mitsui Sumitomo controls the rest.

BPI/MS president and chief executive Ryuichi Ito said he expected the company to post a 15-percent growth in consolidated gross premiums written this year from last year's P1.793 billion posted by FGU Insurance and FEB Mitsui Marine.

The sales growth is expected to be boosted by "bancassurance."

Now that the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had allowed banks to sell non-bank products, including insurance policies, to their clients, Ito said BPI/MS would use BPI's 640 branches as distribution channel.

The new distribution channel will complement sales from the insurance firm's over 1,000 agents nationwide, he said.

BPI/MS executive committee member and board director Alfonso Salcedo Jr. meanwhile said, the company's growth would be flat because of restructuring costs arising from the merger.

He said the company had to spend on moving offices to the Ayala Life-FGU Center and on an early retirement program resulting from the integration.

Sales growth, however, will be driven both by corporate and retail business, with the former doing particularly well.

Salcedo said the premiums or insurance policy rates had risen or hardened since the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

We are pleased to announce that raffle numbers of qualified HOPE depositors corresponding to their average daily cleared balances (ADCBs) for the month of May 2002 are now available for verification at their respective branches.

The third quarterly draw covering raffle numbers issued from April to June 2002 is scheduled for July 26, 2002. At stake are an IBM ThinkPad I Series Laptop, a Nokia 8850 Cell Phone, a Palm Pilot M505 and forty (40) 1st e-Bank gift certificates at P1,000.00 each.

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Napocor presses Meralco to honor 10-yr supply deal

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NATIONAL Power Corp. reiterated yesterday that the Manila Electric Co. should at least comply with their 10-year supply deal if Meralco really wanted to bring down power rates.

Napocor officer in charge Roland Quilala said in a statement that the most practical solution to the problem of high power rates was for the power firm to increase its sales.

"The formula for Napocor's selling rate is based on its monthly bulk power sales," Quilala said.

Napocor data submitted to the House committee on energy show that Meralco customers will enjoy a rate reduction of P1.38 per kilowatt-hour if the distribution giant will obtain all its needs from Napocor.

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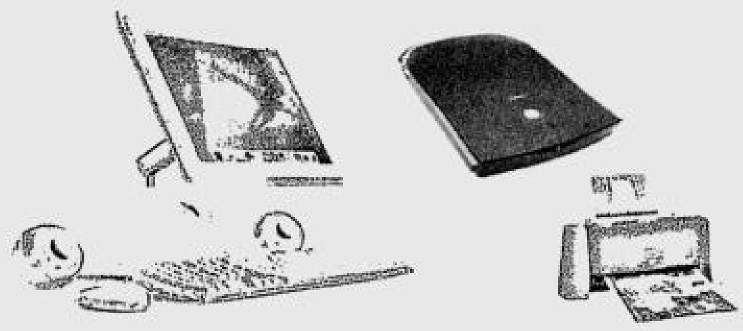

The new iMac G4
The new iMac is designed around a stunning 15-inch LCD flat screen that's brighter, sharper and easier on the eyes than old-fashioned CRT displays. You have a choice of three new iMac models: the 800MHz iMac with DVD-R/CD-RW SuperDrive, 700MHz iMac with DVD-ROM/CD-RW Combo drive or the 700MHz iMac with a CD-RW drive.

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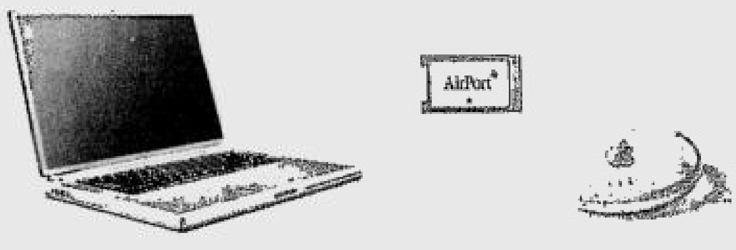

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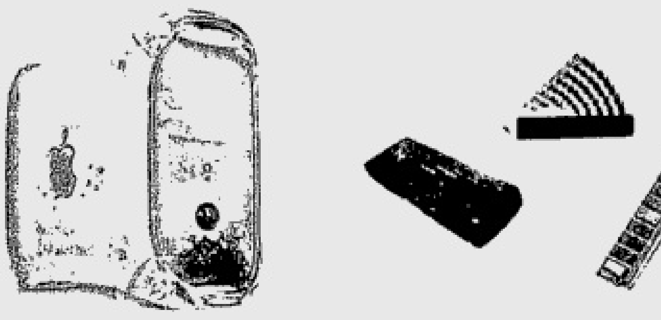

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Cocktales . . .

From page B3

Page One.

Chin up for Chinoys

THE MOST influential Chinese-Filipino organizations have teamed up to honor leading Chinoys of the community tonight with the Dr. Jose P. Rizal awards for excellence.

Heavy-hitters such as the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, Philippine-Chinese Charitable Association, and Chinese-Filipino Business Club have set aside whatever organizational differences they may have to come up with the awards.

No less than President Macapagal-Arroyo has agreed to grace the occasion at the bayside Le Pavillon at the Toyota Business Park.

The awards, incidentally, have been named after the national hero since Rizal, whose birthday falls today, was a Chinoy himself.

Heard through the grapevine

AMBASSADOR Alfonso Yuchengco may be posted halfway round the world in the United Nations but, if you believe the pro-Salim grapevine, the taipan has been using the back channels in Tokyo, where he was once the country's ambassador, in trying to persuade NTT to stop the impending Gokongwei takeover of PLDT.

If the grapevine is correct, then AY is following the Woody Allen-line in regard to the PLDT Cojuangcos: Enemies in court, allies in the boardroom.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

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Local auto firms seek Aico extension

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PHILIPPINE automotive assemblers are urging the government to push for the extension of the Asean Industrial Cooperation (Aico) program beyond 2003 because the regional production-sharing scheme would continue to be relevant even with the start of the Asean Free Trade Area next year.

A top official of a Japanese vehicle assembler said local industry players wanted to continue their ongoing Aico projects in order to enjoy the tariff perks on vehicles and parts manufactured in Asean.

The official said this would make their assembly operations in the Philippines relevant even with the reduction of tariffs on Asean goods to no more than 5 percent as Afta starts.

Malaysia had lobbied in Asean to extend Aico up to 2010 in order to sustain interest in Aico despite the start of the Afta.

Aico is a pan-Asean industrial partnership agreement where multinational corporations are allowed to build products in several factories in different countries in the region by sharing product components shipped at preferred duties.

Aico began in the late 1980s as Asean Industrial Joint Venture and Brand-to-Brand Complementation. It was meant to attract multinational corporations to locate their production facilities in the region. The program was extended as a precursor of the Afta by allowing participants to enjoy preferred duties ahead of the Asean trading block.

Aico participants are allowed to ship their components to their subsidiaries in different countries in the region at duties of between zero and 5 percent. There is currently a move to grant duty-free status on all Aico products.

The Philippines has more than 10 Aico projects, most of which in automotive assembly and parts manufacturing.

Gov't . . .

From page B1

government's faulty automotive tax policies.

Arnel Doria, deputy head of marketing for Honda, said that it would be unfair for the government to single out the CRV. "No sports utility vehicle has paid excise taxes since the 10-seater rule was implemented. If they disqualify us, they should do the same for the others."

In the two months that Honda was selling the new CRV, the government had already realized foregone revenues of about P200 million because of its exemption from excise taxes.

By lifting the exemption on 10-seaters, the BIR estimated that the government could collect about P5 billion in additional revenues a year. The 10-seater rule was implemented through a BIR regulation issued in 1997 and this policy was even relaxed further in 1999.

GOINGS-ON

1st Pinoy franchise show

THE PINOY franchise operations have "arrived." These business enterprises have established their own brand images and are competing with multinational franchise operations.

They are now organized under the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. (AFFI), a non-profit organization, led by its president Pacita U. Juan.

To introduce its presence in the market, AFFI will hold the First Filipino Franchise Show on July 19-21, at the Megatrade hall 1 of SM Megamall.

The event will provide local franchisers a venue to showcase their products and services.

There will be a special "start-up business area" where potential franchisers will be invited to present their businesses in the exhibit. Franchise operators who are expected to be in the event are from various enterprises like food, automotive services, beauty, beverage, catering, Christmas decor, laundry, computer, convenience stores, courier or delivery services, gifts, education, fashion, video rentals, vending, water technology, recreation and entertainment.

The First Filipino Franchise Show is organized by Conventions and Exhibition Managers International (Convex), with AFFI.

For inquiries on joining the show or AFFI, call 726-8664; or email to convex@mozcom.com.

Acquisition guidelines

PHILIPPINE Legal Research Center, a Civil Service Commission-accredited training institution, will hold a whole-day seminar on acquisition guidelines for supplies, materials and equipment on June 22 at the Heritage Hotel Manila, Roxas Boulevard cor. Edsa, Pasay City.

The topics for discussion are the following: requirements for requisition; approval of requisition; modes of acquisition; modes of procurement in government; general processes involved in the various modes of procurement; procurement by electronic means; delivery, inspection, acceptance, and payment; and open forum and consultations.

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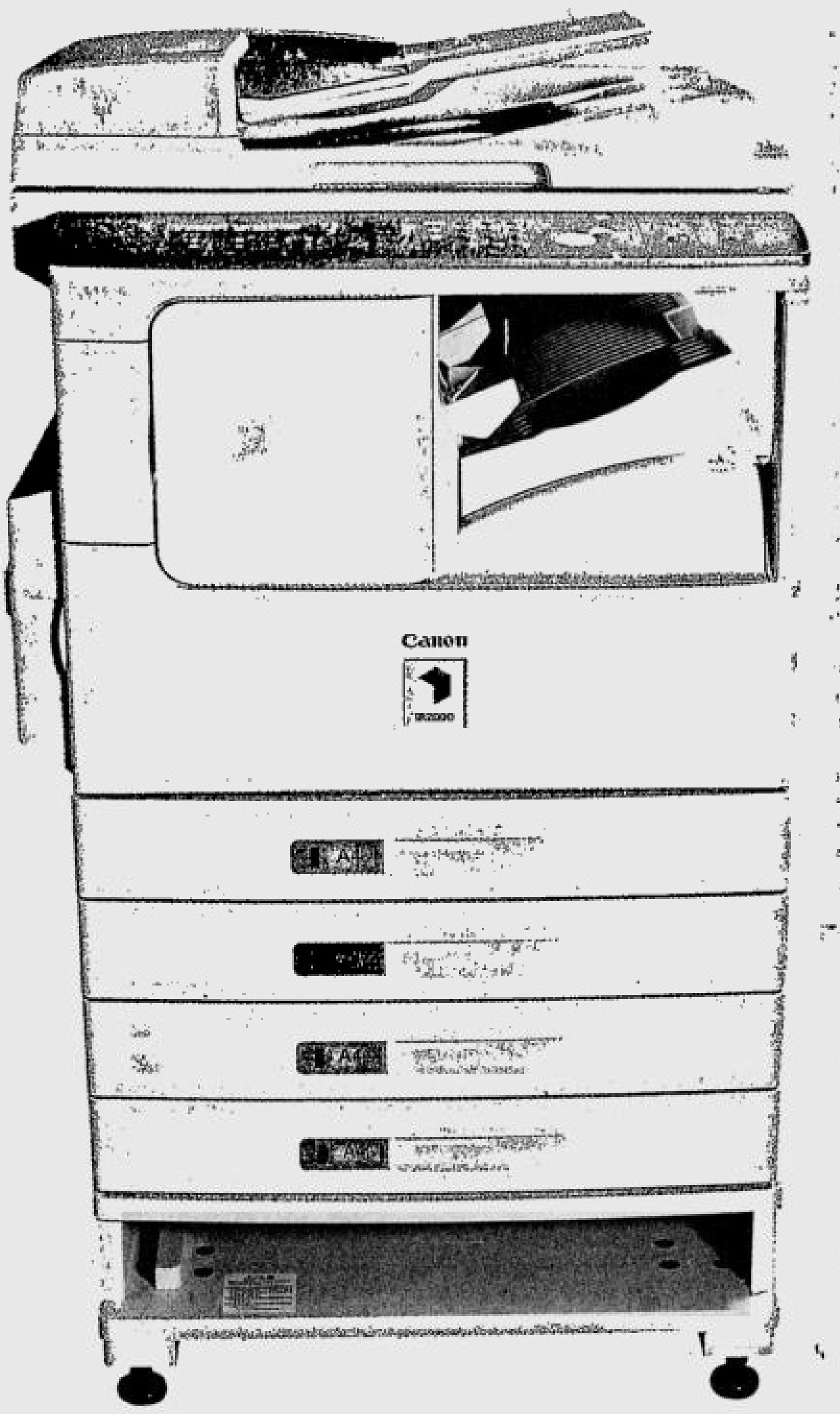

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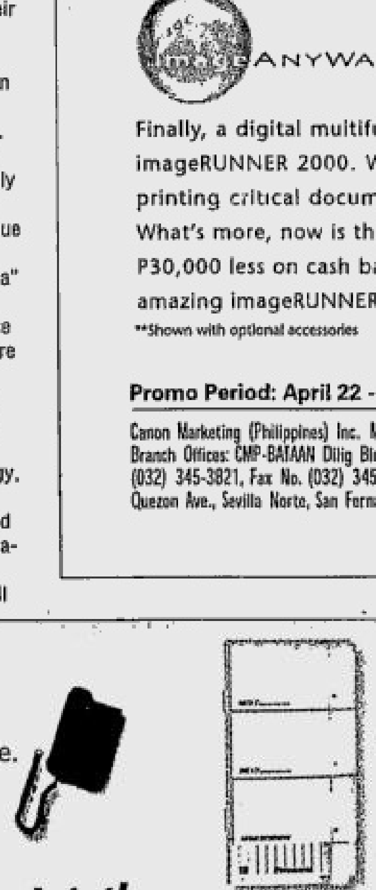

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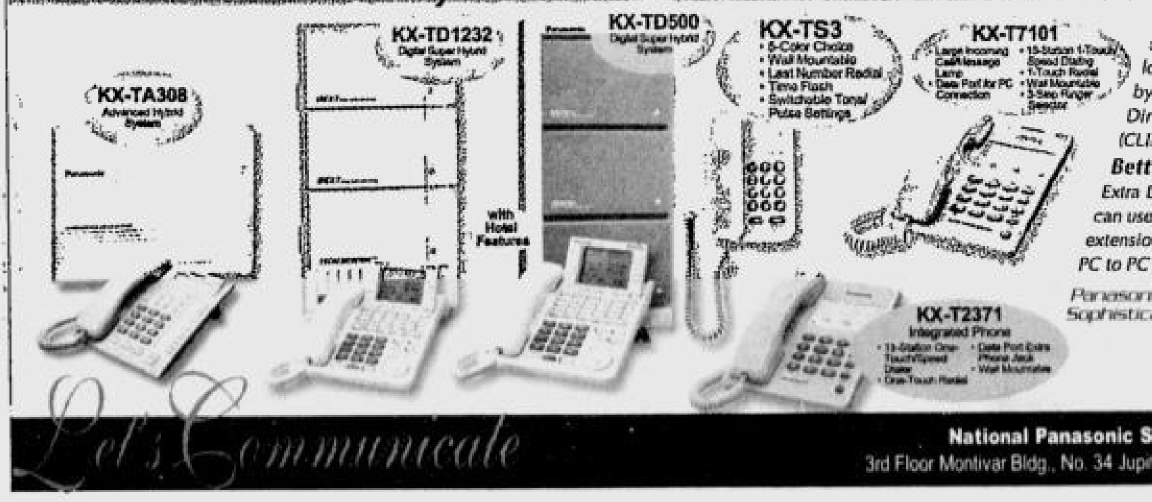

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late **JUAN & DOLORES MONTENEGRO** was extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc#221, Book#1, Series 2002 before Consul Rosalita Prospero of Syned, Aus.
(PDI-June 19, 26 & July 3, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the Bank Acct. of the late **COL. RESTITUTO CAPOTE** from Land Bank was extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc No. 344 Book No. 38 Page No. 69 Series of 2002 Notary Public Atty. Estayan PTR No. 2859597 1-2-2002.
(PDI - June 5, 12, 19, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the SAN MIGUEL CORP. Stock Cert. No. 93090207 for 32 Class A Shares in the name of ANDREA C. BELTRAN has been Lost. If no contest is received new cert. will be issued. (PDI-June 5, 12 & 19, 2002)

TARLAC I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(TARELCO I)
AMACALAN, GERONA, TARLAC
"OWNED BY THE PEOPLE IT SERVES".

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Energy pursuant to Department Circular No. 95-11-009 under Energy Regulations No. 1-94 implementing Section 5(i) of Republic Act No. 7638, as amended and its attendant rules and procedures, has allocated from its Electrification Fund (EF) an amount to be made available to TARLAC I ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (TARELCO I), for the electrification projects in the provinces of Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

Tarlac I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO I), invites Sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following distribution lines.

BARANGAY	1-Ph (kms)	U.B. (kms)	O.S. (kms)
1. Maamot, San Jose, Tarlac	10.390	2.220	0.960
2. Labney, Mayantoc, Tarlac	9.945	1.650	1.320
3. Cabatuan, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija	2.830	1.560	0.750
4. San Juan, Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija	3.270	0.570	0.815
5. Medico, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	1.530	0.640	0.400
6. Maeling, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	1.260	0.690	0.320
7. Alemania, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	3.725	0.225	0.375
8. Tony, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	1.105	0.235	0.275
9. Edy, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija	1.830	0.460	0.110
TOTAL	35.885	8.250	5.325

Bidders are required to bid on a per barangay basis.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting **June 24, 2002**, by eligible bidders upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P3,500.00). Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the PBAC, TARELCO I, Amacalan, Gerona, Tarlac, Tel. No. (045) 931-0971 & 931-0975. Pre-bid Conference will be held on **July 10, 2002** at 10:00 A.M. at TARELCO I Boardroom also of the same address.

Sealed proposals in two (2) copies will be received by the PBAC at TARELCO I at exactly 10:00 A.M., **July 17, 2002**, at which time and place the said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidders' representative who choose to attend.

TARELCO I hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein, and accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Cooperative.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. RIC REY C. VERGARA**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--June 16 & 19, 2002)

***** OUR COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A HIGH CALIBER CANDIDATES WHO CAN FILL UP THIS POSITION *****

PRODUCT ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR

(PE SECTION)

Qualifications:

• Male / Less than 30 years old • Preferably can speak chinese fluently • A graduate of Electrical Engineering • Must have a feasible achievement in production improvement • Must have a thorough knowledge in product computer maintenance • Must have 2 years experience in solving notebook and computer engineering problem

PRODUCT ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR

(TE SECTION)

Qualifications:

• Male / Less than 30 years old • Graduate of Business Administration / Information Management • Preferably can speak chinese fluently • Must be well verse with TE job function, Testing process, Test program, Preload process, Test network and Preload network environment • Familiar with notebook computer manufacturing, and construction management.

MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING SUPERVISOR

Qualifications:

• Male / Less than 32 years old • Mechanical Engineering Graduate • Preferably can speak chinese fluently • Must have 3 years experience in handling Notebook Manufacturing process • Must be well verse in solving mechanical issues and concern • Able to manage new notebook computer product development process.

Requirements:

• Updated resume with recent photo • Diploma / Transcript of Records • Employment Certificate

Interested applicants may submit all their requirements at:

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At Rizal Hi-way corner Aim High Avenue,
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Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

In the Matter of the Petition for
Change of First Name in the
Certificate of Live Birth of
Rico Raganas Atup

Petition Entry No.__

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

The public is hereby notified that RICO RAGANAS ATUP has filed with this Office a petition for Change of First Name from "Landy to Rico" in the Certificate of Live Birth of Rico Raganas Atup.

At the expense of the petitioner, let a copy of the petition be published at least once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of national circulation. Any person having knowledge and/or claiming interest or may be adversely affected by said petition may, within fifteen (15) calendar days, file his written opposition with this office.

(Sgd.) LEO G. WABE
City Civil Registrar

(PDI - June 19 & 26, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
5th Judicial Region
Branch 32
Pili, Camarines Sur

ESTER L. RODRIGUEZ, ELENA R. BERNABE,
EVELYN R. SENDICO, and HEIRS OF RODOLFO L.
RODRIGUEZ Rep. by FREYA L. RODRIGUEZ,
Plaintiffs,

CIVIL CASE NO. P-2224
For: Recovery of Ownership and Possession and Damages

-versus-

CELSO MABESA and NOEL MABESA,
Defendants.

x-----x

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2000 plaintiffs through counsel filed a verified complaint the same was amended on February 21, 2002, the amended complaint is quoted in toto, as follows:

AMENDED COMPLAINT

PLAINTIFFS, represented by ESTER L. RODRIGUEZ, for herself and as Attorney-in-Fact, by counsel, unto this Honorable Court, respectfully states that:

1. Plaintiff ESTER L. RODRIGUEZ is of legal age, widow and a resident of 630 Peñafrancia Avenue, Naga City, Philippines; plaintiffs, the heirs of RODOLFO L. RODRIGUEZ represented by FREYA L. RODRIGUEZ of legal age, widow and a resident of 3880-A Street, Makati City; plaintiff ELENA RODRIGUEZ-BERNABE is also of legal age, married and a resident of 9 Rafael Cornejo Street, Executive Village, BF Homes, Parañaque City; plaintiff EVELYN RODRIGUEZ-SENDICO is likewise of legal age, married and a resident of Adelfa St., Tahanan Villa, Parañaque City, while defendant CELSO MABESA is of legal age, Filipino, married and a resident of (Cadlan) Caroyroyan, Pili, Camarines Sur and co-defendant NOEL MABESA is also of legal age, Filipino and a resident of Caroyroyan, Pili, Camarines Sur, where summons and other court processes may be served upon them. All the parties are with full civil capacity to sue and be sued.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS

2. Plaintiffs are the surviving heirs of the deceased Atty. Delfin J. Rodriguez who died on April 1993.
3. Plaintiffs as heirs of the deceased Atty. Delfin J. Rodriguez, inherited a parcel of land registered in the name of said deceased person under TCT No. 14005 of the Registry of Deeds of Camarines Sur more particularly described as Lot 624 B situated at Cadlan (now Caroyroyan) Pili, Camarines Sur, containing an area of 1,126,065 square meters, a photocopy of said TCT is hereto attached as Annex "A" and made an integral part hereof.
4. The said parcel of land was part of TCT No. RT-295(1927) registered in the name of Atty. Delfin J. Rodriguez, more particularly described as Lot 3, Plan Psu 20529 containing a bigger area of 1,141,901 square meters, which during the lifetime of Atty. Rodriguez, was subdivided into three (3) lots to give way to the barangay road of Caroyroyan, Pili. Accordingly, the three (3) subdivided lots where then denominated as:
   - a) Lot 624 - such an area of 1,133,488 sq.m.
   - b) Lot 898 - with an area of 6,417 sq.m. and
   - c) Lot 2521 - with an area of 1,996 sq.m.

   A photocopy of TCT No. RT-295(1927) is hereto attached and marked as Annex "B" and made an integral part hereof.
5. As a result of the subdivision, only Lot 624 and Lot 898 remained as the property of Atty. Delfin J. Rodriguez as Lot 2521 became a road lot;
6. Unfortunately, when TCT No. 14005 was issued to Atty. Delfin J. Rodriguez, after the subdivision of TCT No. RT-295(1927) was made only Lot 624 was included in the technical description while Lot 898 was omitted. And the fact of omission was only discovered by the plaintiffs after the death of Atty. Delfin J. Rodriguez;
7. Thus, compelling the plaintiffs to institute a case before RTC Pili for the rectification of the error in the issuance of TCT No. 14005, which case (is) was docketed as Special Proceedings No. P-844 (pending) before Branch 32 of said court. Accordingly, on June 28, 2001, a Decision was rendered, the dispositive portion of which reads:

   "PREMISES CONSIDERED, judgment is hereby rendered ordering the Register of Deeds of Camarines Sur to correct the technical description appearing in TCT No. 14005 in the name of Delfin J. Rodriguez by adding the duly certified technical description of Lot 898, Cad 291 it being a part of Lot 3 Plan Psu-20529 containing an area of 6,417 sq.m.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

8. Sometimes in the middle part of 1993, plaintiffs discovered that defendants Celso and Noel Mabesa took possession of the bigger portion of Lot 898 containing more or less an area of 5,000 square meters without the knowledge and consent of the plaintiffs. And because of the unlawful possession by defendants Mabesa, plaintiffs filed a case for Recovery of Ownership and Possession and Damages with Preliminary Injunction with the Regional Trial Court of Pili, Camarines Sur on November 17, 1993. Unfortunately the case was dismissed on April 21, 1998 on the ground that the court has no jurisdiction over the subject matter as the assessed value then was only P13,600.00. As of now, the new assessed value of the property is P24,460.00 as evidenced herewith by a photocopy of the A.R.P. No. 97 006 275 issued by the Provincial Assessor's Office of Camarines Sur marked as Annex "C" and made an integral part hereof.
9. At present, defendants Celso Mabesa and Noel Mabesa (is) are still in possession of the said 5,000 square meters of Lot 898 and (has) have refused to vacate the same despite demands made upon him;
10. The plaintiffs, as heirs of the late Atty. Delfin J. Rodriguez are entitled to the ownership and possession of Lot 898 to the exclusion of the defendants who (has) have no right to the property whatsoever;
11. By reason of the unlawful possession by the defendants over the subject land, (he) they must be ordered to vacate and remove at (his) their own expense whatever structures or improvements (he has) they have introduced thereon;
12. The defendants must likewise be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs the amount of P50,000.00 per year that (he has) they have been in unlawful possession of the subject landholding as reasonable rent for the use thereof.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

13. By reason of the defendant's unlawful possession of the subject landholding and knowing fully well that (he has) they have no right thereto whatsoever, the plaintiffs have suffered severe anxiety, sleepless nights, extreme fear and social humiliation for which the defendants must be ordered to pay to the plaintiffs, the amount of P200,000.00, as by way of moral damages;
14. By reason of the defendant's disregard of the plaintiffs right over the property and by enriching (himself) themselves at the expense of the plaintiffs, the defendants must be ordered to pay the amount of P1,000,000.00 as by way of exemplary damages.
15. By reason of defendants wanton and unjustified refusal to vacate the property of the plaintiffs, the latter was compelled to seek redress before this Court and as a consequence incurred expenses in the amount of P50,000.00 for which the defendants must be ordered to pay, as by way of attorney's fees and litigation expenses.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed of this Honorable Court that judgment be rendered ordering the defendants as follows:

1. to vacate the 5,000 square meter of land forming part of Lot 898;
2. to demolish all structures and improvements introduced on the subject landholding and should defendants fail to do so, to authorize plaintiffs to demolish the same at the expense of the defendants;
3. to pay the amount of P50,000.00 per year that defendants (has) have been in unlawful possession of the land, as by way of reasonable lease rental thereof;
4. to pay the amount of P200,000.00, as by way of moral damages;
5. to pay the amount of P100,000.00, as by way of exemplary damages;
6. to pay the amount of P50,000.00 as by way of attorney's fees and litigation expenses.

Such other reliefs as may be deemed just and equitable under the premises.

WHEREAS, Summons together with a copy of the original complaint and its annexes was issued for service to defendant Celso Mabesa but the Sheriff's Return showed that the said process was UNSERVED as defendant is presently in the United States of America.

WHEREAS, on August 30, 2001, plaintiffs through counsel filed a motion for Leave of Court to amend complaint (quoted above) and effect service of summons by publication, said motion was granted by the court in its order dated February 8, 2002.

NOW THEREFORE, you defendants Celso Mabesa and Noel Mabesa, both with last known address at Caroyroyan, Pili, Camarines Sur are hereby summoned through the medium of publication, you are therefore required to file with the Clerk of Court V, Regional Trial Court Branch 32, Pili, Camarines Sur your responsive pleading and/or answer to the above-quoted amended complaint within sixty (60) days from the date of last publication, serving at the same time a copy of your responsive pleading and/or answer upon plaintiff's counsel, Atty. [illegible] Rañeses at 3rd Floor Trader's Square Bldg., P. Burgos St., Naga City and your failure to do so within the period herein prescribed will enable the plaintiffs to take judgment against you and demand from the Honorable Court reliefs and remedies prayed for in the Amended Complaint.

Let this Summons be published at the expense of the plaintiff in the Philippine Daily Inquirer, a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and in Pili, Camarines Sur once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks, the first publication shall not be later than June 12, 2002. Furthermore, let a copy of the summons together with the Amended Complaint and annexes be deposited with the Cadlan, Pili, Camarines Sur Post Office, postage pre-paid by registered mail with return card to the last known address of defendants Celso Mabesa and Noel Mabesa.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE NILO A. MALANYAON, Presiding Judge of this Court this 20th day of May, 2002 at Cadlan, Pili, Camarines Sur, Philippines.

(Sgd.) LALAINE P. MONSERATE
Clerk of Court V

(PDI - June 12, 19 & 26, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Office No. 5
San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The Department of Agriculture, Regional Field Office No. 5 is inviting interested Suppliers/Distributors to pre-qualify and bid for the following Agricultural machineries under the GMA-Corn Program:

1. One (1) Lot Land Preparation Equipment with the following implements and accessories:
   - a) 4WD Tractor with PTO of 75-85 Hp (in DIN, SAE or BS) at 540 rpm
   - b) Accessories Implements
     - 4 x 26 disc plow
     - 20 x 24 trailing disc harrow
     - 4 - row corn planter with fertilizer and insecticide hopper
     - 3 - ton capacity tractor trailer (heavy duty)
     - ROPS and canopy
2. 4 Units Brand New 4 x 4 Pump and Engine Sets with 8 Hp water-cooled diesel engine mounted on a common base with belt tensioner, 2 pieces 4" x 20' GI pipe schedule 40, pipe fittings and complete accessories.
3. 8 Units Corn Sheller with blower (suction type) with brand new engine and complete accessories.

The project shall include delivery of brand new tractor, pump and engine sets, corn shellers and their accessories.

Bid forms shall be made available to qualified bidders at the PBAC Secretariat at Ps 1,000.00 Pesos non-refundable amount upon submission of a Letter of Intent, Vat Registration, Financial Statement and Income Tax Return (last 2 years), DTI Registration, Mayor's Permit, Business License, Experience Record, and other documents necessary for prequalification.

Deadline for submission of Pre-Qualification requirements will be on **June 27, 2002**. Pre-bidding conference will be on **June 28, 2002** at 9:00 a.m. at the DARU 5 library.

The DA reserves the right to reject all bids or any part thereof and accepts the offer most advantageous to the interest of the government.

(Sgd.) **FE D. LAYSA**
Regional Executive Director

(PDI – June 19, 2002)

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Republic of the Philippines
Asian Development Bank-Assisted
Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project
City of Tagbilaran

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date:
ADB Loan No. 1367-PHI
MDF Subloan No. 0496-PHI
Subproject No. 005-PHI

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank, herein referred to as the "Bank", in various currencies towards the cost of the Philippine Regional Municipal Development Project and it is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under contract(s) or the Supply and Delivery of various Sanitary Landfill Equipment.
2. The City of Tagbilaran, the implementing Agency for the Project, now invites sealed bids from the eligible bidders from member countries of the Bank for the supply and delivery of various Sanitary Landfill equipment as follows:

Item No. 1	Two (2) units Garbage Compactor (Waste Collection)
Item No. 2	One (1) unit Backhoe (Excavator)
Item No. 3	One (1) unit Vibratory Compactor

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid form and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

   THE CHAIRMAN
   Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee
   PRMDP-PAU Office, 2nd Flr. City Hall Building
   City of Tagbilaran

4. A complete set of bidding documents can be acquired by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 3,000.00 per Contract Package. Bid Documents will be available on **July 3, 2002** until **September 3, 2002**. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on **August 20, 2002** at 2:00 in the afternoon at the above address.
5. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security or Bank Guarantee of Two and Half percent (2.5%) of the total Bid Price and must be delivered in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders on or before 2:00 in the afternoon, **September 3, 2002** immediately after which bids will be publicly opened.
6. Bidders may submit bids for any or all of the items and quotations must be for any or all the equipment items and at full quantity/ies described under this contract package being bidded.
7. The City of Tagbilaran reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any informality contained therein and accept offers most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. JOSE V. TORRALBA**
City Mayor
Chairman, PBAC

(PDI--June 19, 21 & 23, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
SENATE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

(Reference: Admin Order No. 001, s. 1988)

The SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES is inviting interested bidders for the following projects:

PROJECT DESCRIPTION	REQUIREMENTS
PROJECT A - INSTALLATION OF LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN) WITH AT LEAST 170 NODES & 256 kbps LEASED LINE OR WIRELESS BROADBAND INTERNET CONNECTION	1. Company must be in the industry for at least 2 years 2. Must have successfully implemented a minimum of 150 nodes in a similar project 3. Must have a working capitalization of Php 5 million 4. Must have at least 3 in-house Certified Networking Engineers and full time manpower complement of at least 15 technical and customer support personnel 5. For internet connection: ISP must be in the industry for at least 2 years, with multiple E1 connections and redundant links to the internet (preferably with a T3 or OC3 connection), and with full time manpower complement of at least 15 technical and customer support personnel
PROJECT B - DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT, INSTALLATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SYSTEM (LIS)	1. Company must be in the industry for at least 2 years 2. Must have successfully developed and implemented a document management software based application system, and with reference site 3. Must have a working capitalization of Php 10 million 4. Must have a full time manpower complement of at least 15 technical and customer support personnel
FOR BIDDERS JOINING BOTH PROJECTS A & B	1. Must have a working capitalization of Php 15 million

Prospective bidders may secure briefing paper and prequalification requirements from the PBAC Secretariat Office located at Room 401, 4/F, Senate of the Philippines, GSIS Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City from **June 21 to 28, 2002**. Deadline for submission of duly accomplished prequalification documents shall be on **July 5, 2002**. Incomplete prequalification requirements will not be entertained. All applicants shall be notified on the result of the prequalification proceedings. ONLY PREQUALIFIED BIDDERS SHALL BE ISSUED THE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) AND RELATED DOCUMENTS FOR BIDDING.

Bidders shall be required to post a bidder's bond equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price in the form of cash, manager's check, cashier's check or surety bond. All surety bonds must be callable on demand. Late bids will be rejected.

THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS OR ANY PART THEREOF WITHOUT OFFERING ANY REASON, WAIVE ANY DEFECTS CONTAINED THEREIN AND ACCEPT THE OFFER MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE THE BID BOND AND/OR PURSUE APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION SHOULD THE WINNING BIDDER REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE AWARD.

FURTHER, THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY THE BIDDER FOR ANY EXPENSE OR LOSS THAT THEY MAY INCUR IN PARTICIPATING TO THE UNDERTAKING NOR DOES IT GUARANTEE THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. ARNEL JOSE S. BAÑAS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – June 18, 19 & 20, 2002)

United States Embassy

Manila, Philippines

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY TO BID

The International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB), an agency of the U.S. Government, plans to solicit proposals for construction of a new Radio Transmitting Station at Poro Point, La Union Province.

The following contracts will be solicited:

- Demolition of two concrete and steel aircraft hangers, several smaller buildings, concrete paving, and site utilities at the former Wallace Air Station. This contract is expected to be in the $250,000 to $500,000 range.
- Construction of a new 960 square meter concrete and masonry transmitter building, guardhouse, equipment pads, utilities, electric power feeder, security walls, fencing, site improvements, optional fuel storage and standby generator, and related items. This contract is expected to be in the $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 range.
- Construction of a new five tower antenna array for a 1.0 mega-watt medium wave radio transmitter, transmission line from Transmitter Building, and related facilities. This contract is expected to be in the $1,000,000 to $5,000,000 range.

All work will be to U.S. specifications as well as comply with local codes. All contracts will require performance and payment bonds. Only contractors who have experience with this type of work will be considered qualified to bid.

If you believe your company can meet these requirements, please submit a Letter of Interest and company profile. Include a list of similar projects completed and in progress. Submit to:

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U.S. Embassy, IBB/PTS
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Ermita 1000, Manila

Phone (45) 982-0254
Fax (45) 982-1402
E-mail: KLeonard@phi.ibb.gov

NOTE: This is not a solicitation for bids. Actual solicitations for bids are expected to be sent to qualified contractors within 30 to 90 days.

(PDI -- June 11, 18, 19 & 23, 2002)

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JEREMIAS UNGSON MONTEMAYOR

of Alaminos, Pangasinan

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 9, 2002
after living a full life of 79

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation
to all those who condoled with and comforted us;
offered Masses and prayers; sent flowers and messages of sympathy;
gave donations; visited and kept vigil;
attended the funeral rites, and who, in other countless ways,
shared in our moments of bereavement.

MAY GOD BLESS US ALL!

"My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him
He alone is my rock and my salvation, He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."
Psalm 62:1-2

SIXTA F. ALDANA

Went home to be with the Lord on 18 June 2002 at the age of 77.

Her children **ZENAIDA**, **RAFAEL** and **NINA**, **CECILIO** and **LEONIE**, **EDUARDO** and **ESTER**, **MADELEINE**, **EB** and **JONI**, **RICHARD** and **FELMA**; grandchildren **ERWIN**, **MIA**, **FRANCIS NICHOLAS**, **KARLO ANGELO**, **RONALD ALLAN**, **JUAN CARLOS**, **FRANCIS SARJI**, **FRANCES BIANCA**, **ISABEL DENISE** and **DANIEL ANGELO**; brothers and relatives, are grateful for the life she shared with all of them.

Her body lies in state at the Barangay Hall of West Triangle (Daily Mirror Street, West Triangle, Quezon City).

Interment will be on Saturday, 22 June 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at the Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City.

LYDIA REGINO MARIÑAS

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 17, 2002 at the age of 71.

Her husband Dante and children Ma. Lourdes, Dante, Jr. and Vicky and grandchild Ja-ton, sisters and brother, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Miraculous Medal Parish Church at Camerino Street, Project 4, Quezon City.

Interment will be on June 22, 2002 at 9AM at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

ROSS BLAKE

Beloved husband of **Donna**, devoted father to **Ashley** and **Oliver**, passed away suddenly in Hong Kong on Friday, 14th June 2002.

Service to be held at St. John Cathedral, Hong Kong, Saturday, 22nd June 2002 at 10am.

Contact: **14 Hamilton Street, Brighton, 3186**
Australia
(852) 9104 9965

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

MAXIMA D. MACATANGAY

of San Mariano, San Pascual, Batangas

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 13, 2002 at the age of 84.

Wife of the late **Arsenio G. Macatangay** (†); her children **Araceli** and **Mario de Jesus**, **Romeo** (†) and **Fe Agbay**; grandchildren **Marieel**, **Marivi**, **Marie Ann** and **Bobbie**, **Mario Jr.** and **Joan**, **Rommel** and **Beverlie**, **Joy** and **Paul**; great grandchildren **Alexandra**, **Victoria**, **Katherine**, **Renee**, **Dino**, **Kaile** and **Akela**, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel at Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 22, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. in Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

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INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

For Pepe's sake

Q. Why is "Pepe" the usual nickname of those named Jose?

A. It's all rooted in the pronunciation of the initials *"P. P.,"* formed from the first letters of the Latin phrase *Pater Putativus*, which means "putative (generally considered or believed to be such) father" in English. The sobriquet originally referred to the filial relationship of Joseph, or Jose, husband of the Virgin Mary, to Jesus Christ.

For the Record. Jose Rizal's high school curriculum at the Ateneo Municipal de Manila from 1872 to 1876 included: Spanish, French, Greek and Latin; world geography and history; the history of Spain and the Philippines; mathematics and the sciences (arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, minerology, chemistry, physics, botany, and zoology); and the classic disciplines of poetry, rhetoric, and philosophy.

Past Forward. Born today: Jose Rizal (1861), Filipino patriot, physician, and man of letters who was an inspiration to the nationalist movement; Wallis Warfield Windsor (1896), American socialite who became the wife of Prince Edward, Duke of Windsor (Edward VIII), after the latter had abdicated the British; Lou Gehrig (1903), one of the most durable players in American professional baseball and one of great hitters of the fabulous New York Yankees; Aage N(iels) Bohr (1922), Danish physicist who shared the 1975 Nobel Prize for Physics for his work in determining the asymmetrical shapes of certain atomic nuclei; Aung San Suu Kyi (1945), Myanmar opposition leader, daughter of Aung San (a martyred national hero of independent Burma) and Khin Kyi (a prominent Burmese diplomat), and winner in 1991 of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

WORD WATCH

Patriot (pay'tree uht, pa'tree uht) : from the Greek *patris*, 'native land.'

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Can a manager have a say in HR problem?

By Tita Datu Puangco

PERSONNEL
ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I AM an accounting manager of a manufacturing company. I don't know whether to tell my boss, the company president who is a Japanese national, a problem about human resources. I hesitate to tell him because he may think I am encroaching on the work of our personnel officer.

We have a performance evaluation every semester, but the administrative staff feel they are not compensated fairly. My staff raised the issue to me in the last evaluation session. They are accounting graduates. They came from the ranks of operators two years ago before being moved to accounting. Until now, they are still receiving the salaries of operators. They perform well but I think I cannot do anything.

Two years ago, I talked to our personnel officer about the need for a competitive compensation structure. She acknowledges the problem but does nothing about it. Maybe, she doesn't know how to address the problem. Or if an outsider does a compensation study, it may cost a lot.

Advice
FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

My friends in other companies also feel the same way about their HR departments. They call their human resource people as NPA or non-performing assets. With globalization, I think we must be able to compete or lose our good people. Human resource personnel play a vital role in addressing a competitive global market.

I would like to solicit your advice on what would be the best, but less risky, move on my part to address the problem.

Concerned
Accounting Manager

Thank you for your letter. I could not help but smile when you wrote about human resource people being considered as nonperforming assets of the company. This may be true in some cases, but in the past 20 years, competent and talented human resource people have risen to the ranks of vice president or even president of their companies. I agree with you that they are a significant factor in developing and compensating a world class Filipino quality work force.

People managers

Regarding your problem, you can talk to the president of the company in behalf of your staff about your human resource problem. Every manager is, in essence, a human resource manager because he or she achieves results through people. This is the current thinking—that the human resource function is part of every functional manager's responsibility. The job of the personnel officer is to provide advice and support and to create the systems that will enable you to do your work well.

When you talk to your president, you might want to arm yourself with data. Get information from your network of other companies in the same industry and benchmark what they pay for similar positions. Then, muster the courage to talk to your boss, without putting down the personnel officer.

Helping out

Now, what can be done to have a more responsive personnel officer? By building up rather than tearing down. Remember that one of the toughest jobs in a company is the human resource manager's job. He or she has to nimbly balance management's viewpoint with showing concern and protecting workers' rights. Have a heart to heart talk with her about your problem, but this time, share some solutions.

If she lacks competence in compensation administration, there are short courses she could take to gain more profound knowledge of the subject. You might also want to suggest that she or the company becomes a member of PMAP (Personnel Management Association of the Philippines) so she can be helped to grow and develop as a professional human resource person.

Cost benefit study

If the drawback is the cost of a compensation study, you can survey a number of suppliers for a compensation study. You may find out that it is not as costly as you think. You can also help your personnel officer do a cost benefit study. Both of you can then present your findings to your boss. She may need your active support. You know your boss best. Discover the best mode and time in terms of presenting your proposal. Remember the old adage-nothing ventured, nothing gained.

(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

How do you...

From p. B10

to run my company or department, would I invest in me?" Don't despair if the answer is initially no. Use it as an incentive to find ways to generate more revenue, cut costs, or in some other measurable way, add value to your company.

How can you prove to your boss that you've earned it? The meek may inherit the earth, but they seldom get a raise. Collect and share with your boss letters from customers or other evidence that you're doing a good job.

Have you anticipated your boss' objections and developed a plan for responding to them? You've got to prepare. Have a friend or coworker play the role of your boss and stage mock meetings. Tell your friend she doesn't have to fight fair. This will give you practice at keeping your emotions in check during the rough and tumble of negotiations.

If a raise isn't possible what other ways can you be rewarded? Money isn't everything. Think of all the other ways your boss can make your life better: broader benefits, free tuition for training programs, more flexible work hours, etc.

What if you fail? Ask your boss when would be a good time to resume your negotiation and get specific examples of what you can do in the interim to improve your chances.

These techniques may not get you as much of a raise as you'd like-but hopefully, if you use them, your current pay won't be as good as it gets.

Here are the results of the recent workingwounded.com poll: Honestly-which best describes your current level of pay at work?

-I'm underpaid
-It's just the right amount
-I'm overpaid

Our winning strategy for getting a raise comes from Janie G. in cyberspace.

"By going into your boss and demonstrating what a good, competent, loyal employee you are, whom everybody likes-you are more likely to get a feeble excuse about why you are so very valued, but the company is not doing well right now...(mumble, mumble, mumble). Think of asking for/demanding a raise as being an activity on a mental and emotional par with dating, you will have the right mindset for the game playing involved in the employee psychological extortion euphemistically called 'getting a raise.'"

(E-mail feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

PDI president Sandy Prieto Romualdez (third from right) with representatives of sponsors for the People at Work Live! Seminar Series Bob Rosner August event, ABS-CBN Publishing, Microdata Systems and Management, McGraw Hill Education, Powerbooks, Northwest Airlines, Inq7 Interactive, Single Search Philippines, Paradigms and Paradoxes, and seminar organizer Optimus Managers and Advisors, Inc. JOAN BONDOC

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PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you ask your boss for a raise?

DEAR WW: How do you ask your boss for a raise?

I Want More Pennies
For My Thoughts

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

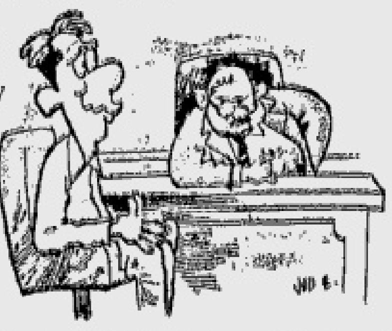
Even if you didn't see the movie "As Good As It Gets," you've probably heard Jack Nicholson's secret for understanding women: "Start with a man and take away all reason and accountability." Now, you may not agree with his calculation, but many women—and men!—fit that description when they ask for a raise. They don't make a rational case for why they deserve one, and they don't measure themselves by the same accountability standards their boss is using.

For tips on avoiding the "no reason, no accountability" trap, I suggest turning to "How to Negotiate a Raise or Promotion" (Amacom, 1986). (Heck, it's only $4 so even without a raise you should be able to afford it.) I've adapted the following points from it.

Is the "current climate" conducive to your getting a raise? "Current climate" relates to a lot of things. Has your company recently laid people off? Is your company making money? Is your boss in a good mood? Take into account as many variables as possible when deciding if the time is right to pop the question. But at the same time, don't wait for perfect conditions that will probably never come.

If you were calling the shots, would you give yourself a raise? Take a hard look at your performance and ask yourself, "if I had limited resources

HOW DO/ p. B9



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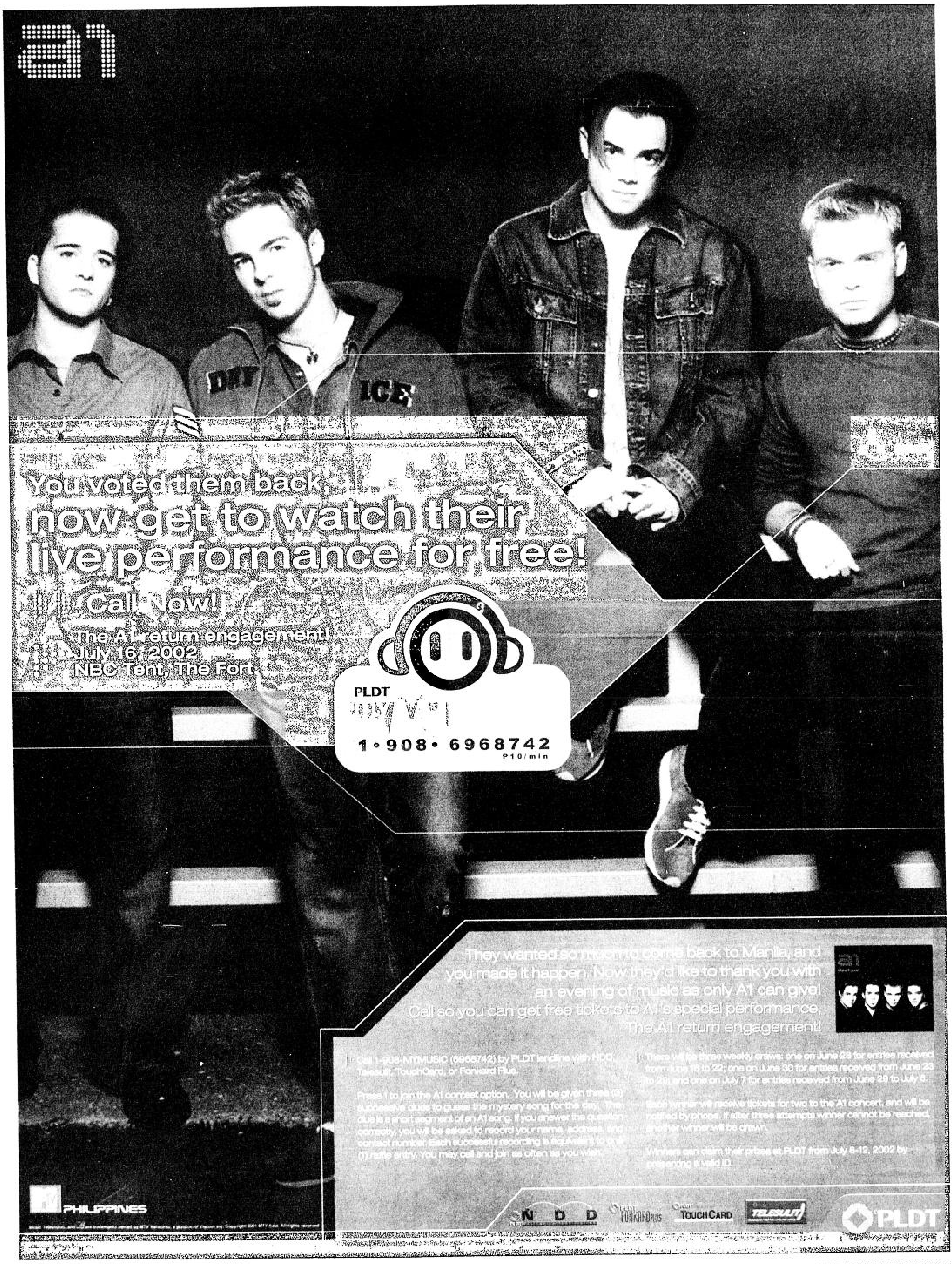
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso ◎ Chief of Correspondents Pam Pastor

Here comes the rain again

What is it with rain that floods and overwhelms the emotions? 2bU! shows you what in this rare issue that doesn't wish the rain to go away



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For hair that shines every step of the way.

CITRÉ SHINE

Tornado's fury fails to ruin her day

It was the most unexpected way to spend quality time together and catch up on things

By Cheryl Tiu
2bu! Correspondent

IT was a coincidence.

I was going to Dallas, Texas, to visit my relatives in the summer, and I found out that he was going to be in the same state, too.

He was the special someone in my life at the time and I had not seen him in ages, only hearing from him occasionally, since he joined the United States Air Force. Then all of a sudden, what I thought was probably the biggest mistake of his life turned out to be a blessing. He was stationed, of all places, in Sheppard AFB in Wichita, Texas, only four hours away from where I was staying (four hours would seem like a stone's throw, considering how the USA and the Philippines are divided by an ocean).

Every weekend I was there, he made plans to make the four-hour drive to see me, but his plans always fell apart because: a) he was on duty, b) he was on a curfew probation or, c) all the cars at the rent-a-car service were taken.

I was getting annoyed so I told him that if he really didn't want to see me, he should quit playing games and tell me straight out. His excuses were getting stale.

On my last weekend, while I was doing the laundry, the phone rang. It was him. He said that he had convinced some friends to drive to Dallas with him the next day so he could see me. He said he didn't care if he was on probation and had early-morning duty the next day. He was going to risk everything and get by on an hour's worth of sleep so he could see me. I was so shocked I accidentally hung up on him!

I couldn't wait to see him and finally be with him again. But it was pouring the entire time the next day. I got a bit apprehensive when he had not arrived at 9 p.m. when he was supposed to come at around 5 p.m. I was so sure he had traded me for something else. I growled at the TV as I plotted my revenge. But then I switched on a news channel that said there was a possibility of a tornado watch that night. A tornado watch! I pulled back the curtains to look outside. Sure enough, the trees were doing a little dance number as the winds blew.

Then the doorbell rang. It was him, dripping wet on the front door. His hair was shorter and a darker shade of brown but he looked the same. I didn't hug him and even hardly said hi. I was still upset over some little things he didn't do. I was silent during the car ride and we ended up at McDonald's, the first food establishment we saw. I realized I was being a brat so I spoke up, "Thank you for driving down to see me." And he said, "No problem, anything for you." As I looked up from tracing imaginary lines on the table with my fingertips, there was a flash—he took a picture of me from across the table.

Leaving McDonald's to meet up with his friends, he braved the storm to get the car. When I stepped out of McDonald's, I was literally almost blown away! The winds were so fierce and the raindrops felt like pebbles dropping from the sky. I was shivering and my teeth were chattering when I got into the car. The storm was so violent that we could not even turn the corner. I was so scared because the windshield of the car had become blurry. We couldn't see anything so we pulled up beside a 7-Eleven.

We had to stay in the car until the tornado had almost calmed down. It was the most unexpected way to spend quality time together and catch up on things. But I wasn't complaining. I was with a guy I really liked and we only had a weekend together. He told me he was glad he was stuck in the storm with me. I smiled and said, "Me, too."

On the radio, the news anchor announced over and over again that there was definitely a tornado watch in the city and that everyone should take the necessary precautions and stay indoors. I wiped the fog off the window and peeked outside. The wind was still howling, the trees were practically bent to the ground and the rain was falling heavily and steadily.

But at that moment, the weather could not have been more pleasant inside the car.

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

An almost Irish-Filipino romance in Portugal

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bUI Correspondent

We ruined a couple of tires so my dreamboat could fix them

I HAD always been aware of him even from afar. My eyes kissed his face as I looked at him from a distance. Every day was the same—an Irish boy in his dad's garage, his body glistening with sweat, and I, in my uncle's old car, looking longingly from afar.

But I wanted more than a "long-distance" relationship. I wondered what it would be like to be a little closer to him.

With a Portuguese friend, I conceived a crazy ploy. We ruined a couple of tires and sped off to my dream garage to have them fixed. Never mind if I ran short of cash for the rest of my stay in lovely Portugal. Never mind if my uncle got mad, interrupted my holiday by sending me home ahead of schedule. Two ruined tires could bring me to paradise.

But the mechanic of my dreams was nowhere to be found. Someone told me it was his wedding day.

I felt a pain, which, as it turned out, was more than just unrequited love. I found myself the next day in an operating room, undergoing an appendectomy.

As I recuperated, I remained watchful from afar hoping that one day, my mechanic prince, though married now, would come over to fix my uncle's Volkswagen Golf GTI engine. But I did not see even a few strands of his streaked hair or a glimpse of his stylish eyebrows. A honeymoon in the Caribbean just took too long.

I would have wanted to stay forever in Portugal, but June came and I had to leave. But I knew I couldn't leave without some kind of an epilogue to this heart-breaking episode in my life.

After careful thinking, I visited the garage once more on my birthday as it drizzled, gifting myself a last, long look at a place I imagined would signal the beginning of an Irish-Filipino romance.

He was not there, of course, but there you were, a mechanic-in-training. You carried yourself the same way he did. Aside from similarities in your voices and hair, you also shared the charm and it was undeniable you were siblings. You were everything that your brother was now that you had his job, but you did not affect me the way your sibling did.

We spent a day together and I never felt a friendship as meaningful as this one. I was drawn to you for who you were. And you, you practically spent your first day at work with me as your apprentice. We could have stayed there forever but dawn told us it was time for me to return to Manila.

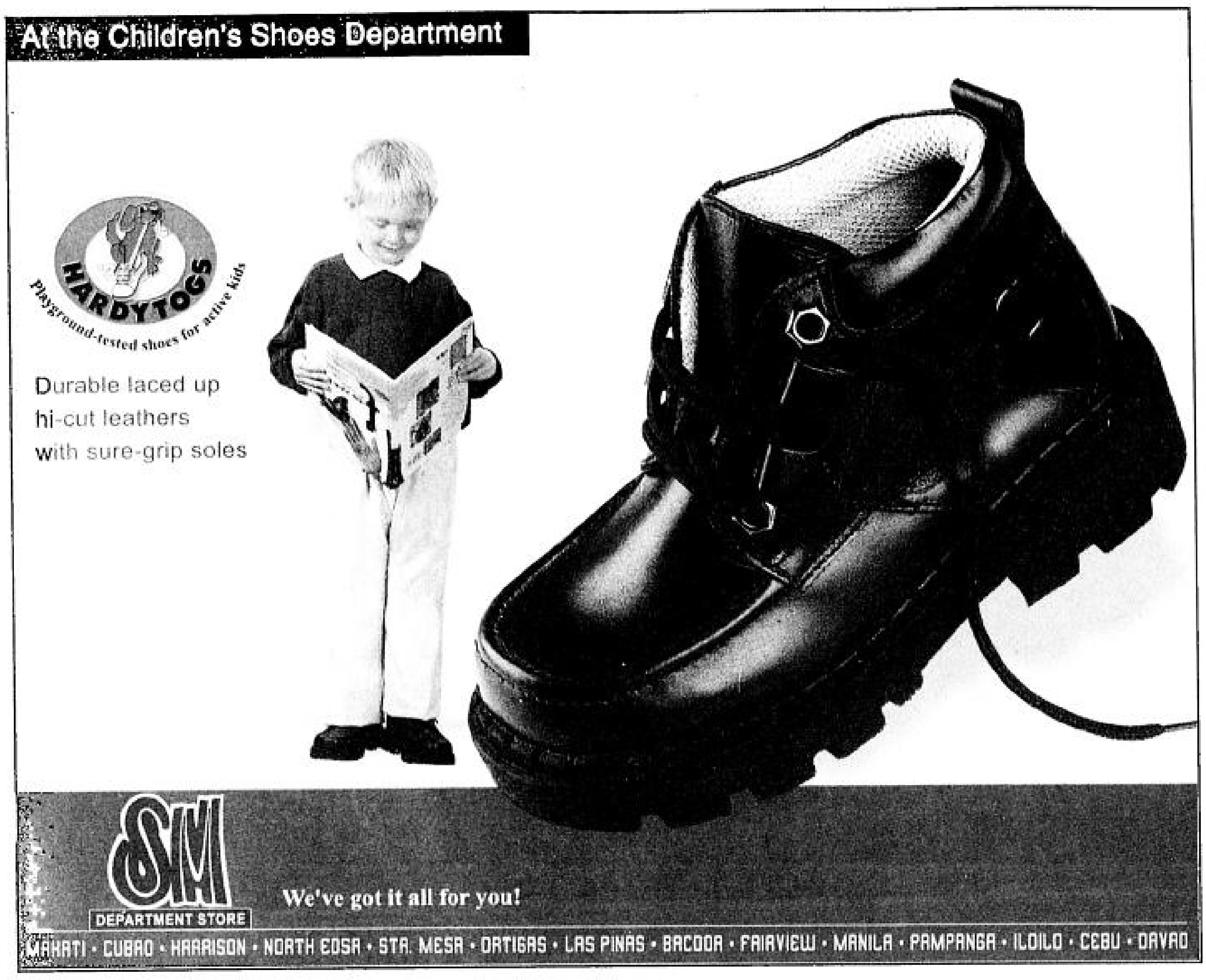
"Thanks. For teaching me the basics, you know, fixing cars," I said.

"No prob, right back at ya. Thanks, too, for being my first client," you replied, your Irish eyes drowning me in their depths.

"Your dad must have taught you all these skills," I said.

Silence.

"Nah, it's my brother. I'm his fave sister."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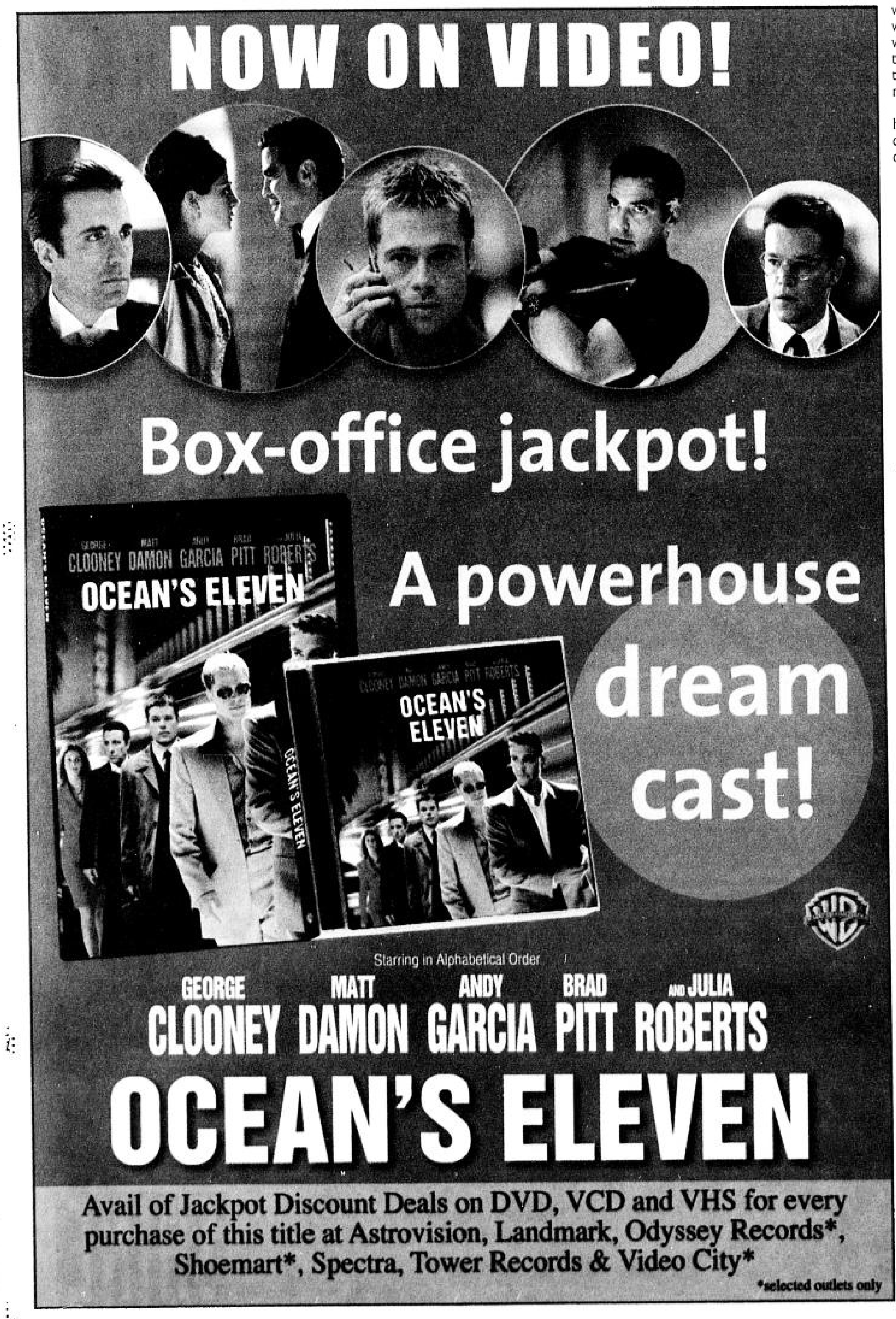
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Love amid a soggy ROTC

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

He discovered the cadet behind him was a former object of affection

IT WAS raining dinosaurs that morning and Niño's bed was luring him back to sleep, dissuading him from attending yet another pointless ROTC meeting. He was about to give in to the temptation when an armored angel suddenly materialized and gave him some mean spanking.

Since it was still raining, and the football field where the players held their training resembled a swamp, they were brought to a dry place. There they formed lines as curly as Felicity's hair, and had their attendance checked.

Much to his surprise and sheer delight, Niño realized that the wriggly worm behind him was actually Mark, an ex-object of his affection. Upon this discovery, the little torch he used to have for Mark was instantly rekindled, and 10 elephants suddenly played hopscotch on his chest.

Feigning calmness was difficult enough, so imagine Nino's feeling when Mark tapped him on the back and asked him if it was really him. Before long, they were talking.

It was the first time that they got to talk to one another for they had never really been formally introduced to each other before. Niño was in Cloud 9.

After being dismissed earlier than usual due to the inclement weather, Niño invited Mark for brunch since the latter's next class was still at 1. So, in between bites and sips, they talked about the usual gay stuff. When I First Knew. Bullied At Class. Coming Out. My First Lover, which led to the revelation that Mark is already committed to someone older than him and that they had been living together for more than a year now. Despite the painful discovery, Niño acted unhurt, pretending to enjoy the conversation as a friend would.

After letting out burps, they wisely decided to kill more time at the nearby mall. Niño clearly remembers how cinematic it was. Two students in their ROTC uniform sharing an umbrella under the pouring rain, Mark's arm around Niño's shoulders, both unaware of what the rain—or the stars—had in store for them.

Epilogue. Mark continued seeing Niño despite his attached status. After three months of beirg together, Mark broke up with Niño, choosing his number one. At present, Niño writes for a daily. And has a girlfriend.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

Saved by the rain

To avoid a test in calculus, he prayed for a miracle and got it. Praise the Lord!

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

ONE A.M. Wednesday. It was the first day of our three-day exam. I laid down on my cluttered bed staring at the ceiling, hoping that God would hear my plea for a cancellation of classes, or better yet, a postponement of exams.

I took my calculator, pretending that I could go about the piles of lecture I never really bothered to write, as most of them were photocopied. Thanks to my near-sightedness, I almost dropped the idea of bringing pens to class. If I saw the words "Differential Calculus," I could die. The thought of my classmates doing their last-minute computations and problem solving before the exam proper was enough torture for me.

If only I had good study habits or had someone to teach me good math skills. But that would be too late. What I needed was a miracle. I had my own ideas of what my miracles could be. One, that our exam papers would be lost before our teacher got to encode our scores on his MS Excel sheet, giving us a chance for a re-test. Two, that a huge commotion would arise in the campus, huge enough to send us (students) and the teachers home. Three, that my math professor would be really sick he couldn't proctor for us and he would have to find a replacement—a more lenient one. Four, that our college building would collapse. But that would be too much. Oh, math! If only for math, I could swear a sunny day. So I prayed for the fifth—that it would rain cats and dogs.

Two a.m. Still on my bed and still no signs of a miracle. I covered myself with my security blanket while I ran my fingers on the linen, wishing that my day would go smoothly. I had to turn the fan off as the temperature got lower. I got back under the smooth white cloth that kept me from my worries. I heard a gush of wind enter our windows. I peeked from under the blanket and noticed little drops of water outside the windows' glass surface. I ran hastily to check if I were just making them up. The lamppost just a few meters across our street confirmed the dawn of a miracle as I vividly saw the falling rain. It seemed as if it was conjuring its power as the drops became obvious because of the increasing racket on the rooftop. Was I really seeing and hearing the rain? I asked myself, thinking what a lucky guy I was if that were true. I let out a sigh. Not too much rain, though.

Three a.m. I was trembling from cold and fear. I had never felt so restless in my life as a student. I turned on my stereo and tuned in to AM radio. Two hours had passed. The rain was still spontaneous. Every minute seemed like an hour as I waited for the real good news over several stations. I overheard a newscaster said, "Classes are canceled today on all levels." I called up my friend to confirm the "miracle." Before words came out of my mouth, he said, "You're not dreaming. You can go back to bed and stop forcing yourself."

I took a pen and a paper and wrote down a stanza. "Good thing we spoke the same language;/ Just when I thought my world would crumble,/ You showered me with hope and bathed me with joy./ Thanks rain, I couldn't be any thankful."

I turned off the lights, switched to FM, shoved my notes off my bed, got under the linen, gave out a really heavy sigh, said a prayer, and murmured "I'd be luckiest if the rain's wrath could last until Friday morning." A loud thunder burst. "Then again, maybe not."

Email the author at gilesaquino@edsamail.com.ph

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bee happy

The night the sky cried

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Phoebe Gonzales
2bU! Corrspondent

I TRUSTED him. With five months of my life, I trusted him. For almost half a year, I didn't dare think of any other man. He was the only one.

And it wasn't a task. It was a joy, actually. Because he treated me like a princess. He loved me, as I did him. His family welcomed me into their lives, into their home. And I fell in love with them.

Despite appearances, he was a child. He needed me to take care of him. And I did, gladly. Until that night.

We had spent a good day together—we hung out with my best friend, went out for dinner and watched a movie. Things should have ended then, so we could have gone on with our lives normally.

Nightmare

But no. Call it hormone overload or a sudden attack of perversion, but my boyfriend harassed me. What started as a sweet kiss ended as one of the most horrible moments of my life. He started pushing his hand up my shirt. I kept saying no, but it was as if he had gone deaf. He persisted and kept touching me. I pushed him away, but he wouldn't budge.

I used to shake my head when I heard about girls being raped or molested. They should have fought back, I would say to anyone willing to listen. If that were me, I could have kicked that loser's groin. I had so much belief for my strength and my capabilities, until I found myself in a similar situation. Until I became a victim.

While he roughly pushed against me, unsnapping the hooks of my bra, I felt myself floating away. This can't be happening to me, I remember thinking, not to me, not to me, not to me. And for a few bizarre moments, I felt like I was merely an observer. That the man I loved wasn't the one violating me. That I wasn't the one being violated. I sat there—rigid, unmoving.

After long minutes, he finally came to his senses. He buried his face in his hands. "Oh my God. I can't believe I harassed you."

Harassed. That was the word. There was a name for the pain I was feeling. I had been harassed. Funny how the perpetrator was the one who named his crime.

> 'Harassed.' That was the word. Funny how the perpetrator was the one who named his crime

Switch off

He kept saying he was sorry, he couldn't stop apologizing, but it was my turn to be deaf. He threatened to commit suicide, but I shut him up by telling him I'd call his mother. I knew one thing—it was over. I told him, "I used to be so full of life. Now I feel like someone had turned the switch off."

He drove me home, his right hand clinging to my left. I didn't grasp his fingers like I used to. I didn't rub my skin against his. My hand wasn't moving. My hand was cold. He would never get warmth from me again. I wanted to cry, I wanted to bawl my head off. But no tears fell. It was like he had drained me. His betrayal of my trust had drained me. There were two of us in his car, but I felt completely alone.

The day had been beautiful, but rain started to fall. Softly at first, then harder. Rain, I whispered in my head. Harder, I wanted to say. But I couldn't speak. I didn't have to.

That night, the sky cried for me.

E-mail the author at notphoebe @yahoo.com

Here *comes* that *rainy* day again

By Anna Garcia
2bU! Correspondent

WHEN I was about 6 years old and had no transportation problems, I lived for rain. As I went to bed at night, I would wish it would rain the next day. When my father was home, we'd spend hours talking as it rained outside. I remember him telling me that he used to count the raindrops on the windowpane when he was about my age. I also remember doing the exact same thing soon thereafter. I found it cute.

At 11, I slipped on the grade school building's ramps because it rained so hard that it was also wet inside. I hit what seemed to be the base of my spine and stopped breathing for about a minute or two. I was sprawled all over the floor, gasping and panting and trying to ask for help but all to no avail. I couldn't even speak. As if that wasn't traumatic enough, I was made the loser of the century by this even bigger loser, a pimply, snot-faced boy, and became the object of ridicule for at least the rest of the school year.

When I was 13, I nursed my broken heart—the first time I got one—with chocolate milkshakes shared with friends, as it poured outside. There's nothing like a good dose of chocolate and girlfriend support to make you feel better. We were stranded in the ice cream parlor, but it didn't matter. I was crying and the world was crying with me—who cares if I was going to get grounded for going home late?

During my freshman orientation at 15, I got a huge dose of reality. I just wasn't good enough. Other students would always be smarter, richer, prettier, sweeter, nicer and taller. My days of battling intellectual weaklings in high school were so over and this was a different game altogether. I was in the premier state university of the Philippines and it felt like being stuck on a boat without an oar.

It rained after the orientation, and everyone ran for shelter. I wanted to stay there on the grass and let the rain wash over me but someone dragged me to join the others in the shelter they found.

Sometime after that, I found myself stuck in a jeepney for four hours in the middle of a storm. What was a straight line between my school and subdivision turned into a never-ending series of turns accompanied by incessant horn blowing. I had no idea where we were. I was wet and freezing. My mom was paging me every minute, asking me to call her. I would have if I knew where I was and if I could find a payphone on the street. Then I heard someone in the jeepney say, "Fairview *na 'to, ah*." I felt so small and helpless. I cried.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

I pretty much started hating the rain after that. My umbrella became my best friend all of a sudden and most of my jackets were water-resistant. At some point I even seriously considered spraying myself with a chemical to make me water-resistant so I'd never have to get soaked unless I wanted to.

A few months ago, I went with this guy I had been seeing for the last four years to the University of the Philippines fair. It started drizzling. My first impulse was to run but I saw the look on his face. He was smiling. Then I remembered. We loved walking in the rain during the early part of our relationship. I remembered that that was how most of my birthdays ended—the two of us sharing an umbrella and walking in the rain, deliberately stepping into puddles to mess up each other's pants. So when he was about to head for the nearest building, I grabbed his hand and stopped him. He looked back

HERE/ p.C7

The samurai master of international DJ-ing

Text and photo by
Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

GROOVE Nation served a night of house and electronic music with Japanese DJ and producer Tomoyuki Tanaka, famously known as Fantastic Plastic Machine.

Tanaka, who was once a bass player, became a professional disc jockey after churning out electronic music with his turntable 16 years ago. He gained popularity as a DJ in Kyoto and Osaka with his DJ team Sound Impossible. Multi-intellectually gifted, he was also a former editor of several Japanese fashion magazines such as Smart, Soem and Brutus, and a one-time host of a popular national radio show.

Shibuya-kei, the ultra-hip music scene in Japan and where music gurus Pizzicato Five and Cornelius hail from, is the same place where Tanaka's music metamorphosed. What sets Tanaka apart from other musicians is his desire to make his music very original or, as he puts it, "bizarre." During his first photo shoot, it was suggested that he hold a cigar; he obliged and the pose became his trademark although he admits he does not smoke.

As a professional DJ, Tanaka explains that he identifies his nationality in his music by absorbing Western music and making it very Japanese. He observes western music objectively and analyzes it in a very Japanese way until he comes up with his own unique sound.

Releases

Tanaka did remixes for cover artists such as Dimitri, Combustible Edison and even Björk. Tanaka's music may appeal most likely to lounge enthusiasts, but it is still a cut above retromania for its ultramodern, electric and eclectic feel. His debut album, "Fantastic Plastic Machine," came out in 1997 and was widely praised. Japanese music critics took note of its " new aural perception." The album was followed by "Luxury" in 1998 and his latest, "Beautiful," which has been released under Avex Trax. The last was recorded in Sigma Sound Studios in Philadelphia and in NYC's Quad Studio, which may explain its NYC house grooves blend with super '70s Philly soul.

Tanaka's fans can look forward to his upcoming releases. This July he will come out with an album remix of Earth Wind and Fire's music and this September, a remix titled "Love" in a compilation CD under Kitsune Records.

His soul

Despite his fame in the international music scene, Tanaka said he would still like to compete in a contest for electronic music. He likened music to fashion journalism where originality is paramount. "Originality," he said. "If you want to be a musician and a fashion editor, you should have a specialty in something." For him, specialty is doing what you like. He just does what he likes without qualms. He does not like to imitate DJs from Europe or America nor did he refer to foreign fashion magazines when he was a fashion editor. With a firm Japanese intonation, he said he doesn't care what the other DJs are doing.

Asked to define good music, he giggled and said, "Basically I cannot present music that I don't like. I only present music that I like." Very MTV.

Later this month, he's off to Mexico and next month he's bound for Russia. He loves traveling to foreign countries and meeting different kinds of people. Doing these wholeheartedly, he firmly believes that he's not missing anything, except quality time with his family. With every trip he carries with him the image of his loving wife. He is aware that his profession entails a lot of sacrifice, but his sense of humor makes the job less difficult. Naturally cheerful, Tanaka's philosophy in life is just to have fun and coming from him, I bet it surely works—fantastically!

E-mail the author at gilesaquino@ edsamail.com.ph

Divided by the rain

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

RAIN has always been perceived by many as a blessing from the gods, a lifegiver that nourishes anything it kisses. But there are moments when it pours so hard, flooding our streets and even taking innocent lives. Rain—either you love it or loathe it. Here's a list of reasons why some of the respondents love the rain while others hate it.

RAIN LOVERS

I like the rainy days because classes are usually suspended.—**Eila, 16, Bloomfield Academy, fresh *na* fresh**

I like the rainy days because it's so cold all you want to do is hug your loved one all day.—**Baby, 21, likes hugging loved one Lindley even if it's not raining**

Mabenta ang tinda kong arroz caldo, ginataang monggo, ginataang mais at ginataang halo-halo.—**Helen, *masarap magluto***

I can be as gothic as I want to be.—**P. P., 21**

I get to wear all these long-sleeved tops that I used to wear every day in the US.—**Gracee, 19, can't wait to go back to the US**

Nice excuse to cuddle up and play footsie under the sheets.—**Jamaica Jane, 17, has no one to cuddle and play footsie with**

It's so conducive to sleep.—**Oleen, 22, always sleepy lately**

It's so poetic, so beautiful.—**Leticia, 26, beautiful (according to her)**

I have this belief that the whole world is cleansed every time it rains. That feels good.—**A.J., 13**

I have this thing for using umbrellas and rain's the perfect excuse. It's just so cinematic!—**Mae, 25, *kulot***

Even if it's challenging going to school, it's great because there are usually no classes and I get to hang out with my pals.—**Gilda, 15**

I love the rain because it's so inspiring. So many people write poems and songs about it.—**Princess Anne Marie, 22, poet and songwriter**

Masarap mag-ginatan.—**Anne Belou, 24**

I relive childhood days by taking a bath under the rain with the neighborhood kids.—**Mang Paquito, 42**

It's cold.—**Toklong, 21**

When it's hot, I like the rain.—**Gabby Ayala, 7, ISM**

I like the rain coz it's *malamig and maganda pa nga pag may typhoon kasi walang pasok.*—**Allelee, 14, Casa del Niño Science**

DIVIDED/ p.C7

Cue in the rain, please

By Anne Rose Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

IN MOVIES and in books, it never rains by accident. But who can blame directors and writers? Rain evokes a nice, romantic, moody feel. A light downpour on "Singing in the Rain" gave Gene Kelly a reason to sing his heart out and do that charming tap dance down the street. In "Shampoo Planet," Douglas Coupland (he was the man who coined the term "Generation X"), there is an unforgettable scene where two teenagers drive through blinding rain to seek a forest, only to realize that it has been cut down. As readers and audiences, we lap these scenes up, perhaps even anticipating certain moments in our own lives that just beg for a director to step in and cue for some backdrop rain.

Sometimes the rain obliges, sometimes the rain doesn't. Sometimes the rain comes for no particularly good reason, leaving you utterly confused in its wake (Mr. Rain, can you come again another day? Preferably when I'm home and in a really contemplative, gazing-out-a-windowsill mood).

Storm dance

I knew that feeling well. When I was 10, I was enjoying a perfect summer noon swimming with my friends. While the first part of the afternoon was baking hot, the sky grew heavy with storm clouds. The sky was heavy and gray. There was thunder that sounded like bowling pins crashing down an alley. That was how I learned weather forecast as a child: when the sky was of a certain shade and sound,

I knew it was time to rush back home. Besides, if I didn't leave then, I would have been stranded in the swimming pool shed for God knew how long until the rain stopped. And Mother Nature looked like she had about to dance up one grand, all-out storm and was going to boogie hard for as long as she wanted. So I ran to my blue bicycle and pedaled home as fast as I could.

Too late. After a few minutes I could actually hear the rain falling behind me. Soon enough, it fell all around me in strong, almost blinding sheets. Lightning began to flash and the sound of thunder became even louder. In one terrifying moment I realized that I was riding my bicycle through an open field with no trees around—the perfect bull's eye for lightning. I had never feared the rain until this moment. I had enumerated the things rain could do in an assignment once, now I thought of something to add to that list: Rain sometimes comes with lightning and when lightning zaps you, it makes you crispier than fried chicken.

Heightened

Then, strangely, fear gave way to a new feeling: euphoria. All my senses were heightened. I could hear the sound of rain mingled with my pounding heartbeat roaring in my ears. If the air was indeed alive with electricity, I swear I could feel it, even breath it in. I was at the center of a rainstorm and its exquisite wildness… and I gloried in it. Needless to say, I made it home alive, looking every bit the half-drowned 10-year-old, every minute of that wild bicycle ride through the rain imprinted on my mind.

Until this day, I still can't find the significance of rain pouring at that moment. But I'd rather not wax philosophical and just savor the memory for all its worth. All I know is that rain came pouring down with a roar, scaring and pleasing me at the same time. There were other times when rain seemed as if it was cued in by some all-mighty director, lending a perfect backdrop to some pretty poignant moments. But it was only in that stormy afternoon when I truly loved the rain.

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com

Crying in the rain

By Regina Yu
2bU! Correspondent

WHEN I was young, my mom always told me that rain was the angels' tears. She said rain was a sign from God to remind kids to be good because their guardian angels were weeping. I never really bought it. Not that I don't believe in angels but for me, rain is just that—plain old rain. Nothing more, nothing less.

All that changed when I met Andrei. With him, rain meant everything.

The go-between

I met Andrei through my then crush Jeff. Andrei was his best friend and my only hope of capturing Jeff's heart. Getting close to Jeff meant making *suhol* to Andrei so he could to put in a good word for me. All was working well; I was getting close to Jeff, thanks to Andrei. But all hell broke loose when I found out that Jeff only got "chummy" with me because he had a thing for Trisha, one of my closest friends.

Naturally, I was devastated. It was one of those days when the weather seemed in touch with my feelings. As it rained outside, it also rained inside—in my heart. Classes were suspended. What made matters worse was the fact that our family driver, who was picking up my younger sisters, was stuck at the other end of the metropolis. My mom told me to stay where I was or try to get a ride home with one of my friends. But by the time I got her message, all my friends had left. Damn rain! I remember saying to myself. So I waited near the guardhouse, bruised ego and all, killing time and thinking how stupid I was to even wish that my crush would feel the same way about me.

God must have heard my prayers. Andrei appeared from nowhere and offered me a ride home. I politely declined because I knew he lived in Makati and he would be going out of his way if he brought me home to Quezon City. But he was insistent. I guess one of my friends told him about the "Trisha-Jeff" incident. He said I could get sick and God knew what else by staying in school. I reluctantly agreed. Besides, I figured I needed someone to listen to me and Andrei could be that. I hopped into his car and took the ride that would forever change my life.

Being stuck in traffic seemed the perfect opportunity for me to express my feelings. On East Avenue, with the floodwater about knee-high, I found myself crying on Andrei's shoulders. He listened intently, giving me advice even as he tried to squeeze out of the traffic jam to get me home. It was really sweet of him to give me a ride home, much more to listen to my sappy story about how I actually thought that I loved his dumb best friend Jeff. I was in the middle of my I-am-so-*kawawa* monologue when he told me that no man was worth a woman's tears. Right there and then, as typhoon Feria unleashed her fury in gusty winds and heavy downpour, Andrei promised that he would forever make sure that no guy would ever break my heart again. That was when I found my best friend.

Magic in the rain

Every day, for the rest of the year, Andrei would make it a point to meet all the guys who were making "*papansin*" (as he liked to call it) with me. He was my security blanket, the teddy bear that girls hold on to when they get scared in the middle of the night. He was more than just a friend. He was almost like a big brother. He met my every need for a boyfriend. He was supportive and understanding seemingly without expecting anything in return. Big brother, as I loved to call him, kept his promise that he would let no one break my heart again.

On another rainy afternoon when classes were suspended and our driver was picking up my other sisters from their school, Andrei offered to give me a ride home. This was different from the ride I took with him the year before. He was unusually silent. It was obvious that he was deep in thought. Being his "little sis," I asked him what the problem was. He just shrugged. Sensing that it was something personal, I kept silent during the whole trip. The silence was deafening but what could I do? He didn't want to talk. Just before I closed the door when I reached our house, he suddenly blurted out the words I'd been longing to hear. "Regina! I can't continue just being friends with you," he said. "I've learned to love you for who you really are." And just like in the movies, I found myself in the arms of the person I love in the middle of the rain.

ILLUSTRATION ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The rain stopped

Our relationship was filled with joy. We did not fight except for a few *tampuhans*. We went to the graduation ball together, even winning the Sweetest Couple Award. To put it simply, it was pure bliss. Everything was perfect, just perfect. And then it was time for college.

It was difficult for us to keep seeing each other. Our schedules would not allow it. His school was on Taft while I was in Diliman. We pretended that nothing was wrong, that we were okay. We would say "Hey! We can do this. Nothing's going to stop us."

But we were wrong. From being able to see each other almost every day, we found ourselves hardly able to meet once a month. It was hard, really hard until we both couldn't take it anymore.

We broke up through text messages. We didn't even have time to see each other and break up in person. We sort of talked about it through text and he decided that we had to part.

Tearful, I walked home. Thank God I lived near the school. Maybe I was cursed or something but on my way home I got caught in the rain. I had to walk through the rain without any protection on my head, as my umbrella was broken. But I didn't run all the way home. In fact, I walked ever so slowly. The drops of rain on my face felt like his goodbye kisses. It was as if we were having our last embrace. As I walked in the rain I thought about all the good times we shared and the wonderful things we did together. I didn't want our love to end. But I knew it was the end.

Two years later, I am still crying over that failed relationship. I keep thinking that if I only tried to make things work then maybe we'd still be together. But things didn't turn out the way I wanted them to. The only thing I can do now is to enjoy the rain, mute witness of my love for him and his love for me. Now I am beginning to think that my mom may have been somehow right. Raindrops are indeed tears but not of angels for children's sins but of people who continue to love. I will continue to wait in the rain. I know that someday someone will come my way. Better yet, maybe he'll come back and we can pick up where we left off.

E-mail the author at regina_marie_yu@hotmail.com

She wants to get in touch with a guy she likes

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

There's this guy I like and he used to like me, too. I don't know if he still likes me. I want him to know that I like him but I think he's mad at me, and I don't know why. The only thing is, we don't talk to each other anymore. What should I do?

ISABELLE

When there is a girl that I like, I find it hard to turn away from seeing her unless I feel that she doesn't like me as much as I like her. Or she introduces me to her gorgeous friend or sister. Normally, though, I let known my interest and, if things go well, we go out for drinks, and maybe I get lucky. If things go great, that girl becomes a friend for life.

Many of my more serious relationships ended with a lot of pain, but those pains turned into a knowledge of each other (and of self) more intimate than what pleasure can sometimes provide. That pain, that separation also turns lovers into friends who know the worst about each other, because they were hurt once upon a time by this same person who is now called a friend.

This situation that you're in doesn't fall into either category, because there is still something in the relationship that you want that is not yours. You need closure, just like any relationship needs; this is an understanding between people that leaves no room for second-guessing and bad judgment of character that we often make when we're hurt or spurned.

You have to understand that guys aren't mind readers, but that doesn't mean that their many faults should be overlooked. Guys are more cerebral when it comes to relationships and breaking them off. And if guys are of the cerebral type, that means that usually, girls are of the emotional type.

Whether you're of the emotional or the intellectual type, it is always hard to be the "dumped" than the "dumper," but this we all have to learn to take with dignity when possible.

If you really like this guy so much then why don't you give him a call or send him a greeting card? Send him a postcard or a picture of you and your cousin on one of your family outings at the beach. That's sure to get him thinking. Stop worshipping the ground that he walks on so that you can have emotional energy for him and for the next friend that will surely come your way. I'd rather you write Sep and I some good news instead of hopeless questions on where you stand in his life. You should be thinking of more important things.

CALOY

ILLUSTRATION ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

There are many ways of telling a guy indirectly that you still like him; one of the faster routes is spreading the word. But yes, it is very risky to do that, especially since your guy is acting antagonistic toward you. Who knows what you could have possibly done before to make him mad now? A not-so-subtle action from you might even annoy him more. Besides, the main problem is that he has changed, or the way he relates to you has changed, and you have no idea what caused that. It would be better to find out first—from the guy—what the root of the problem is before you tell him about your feelings.

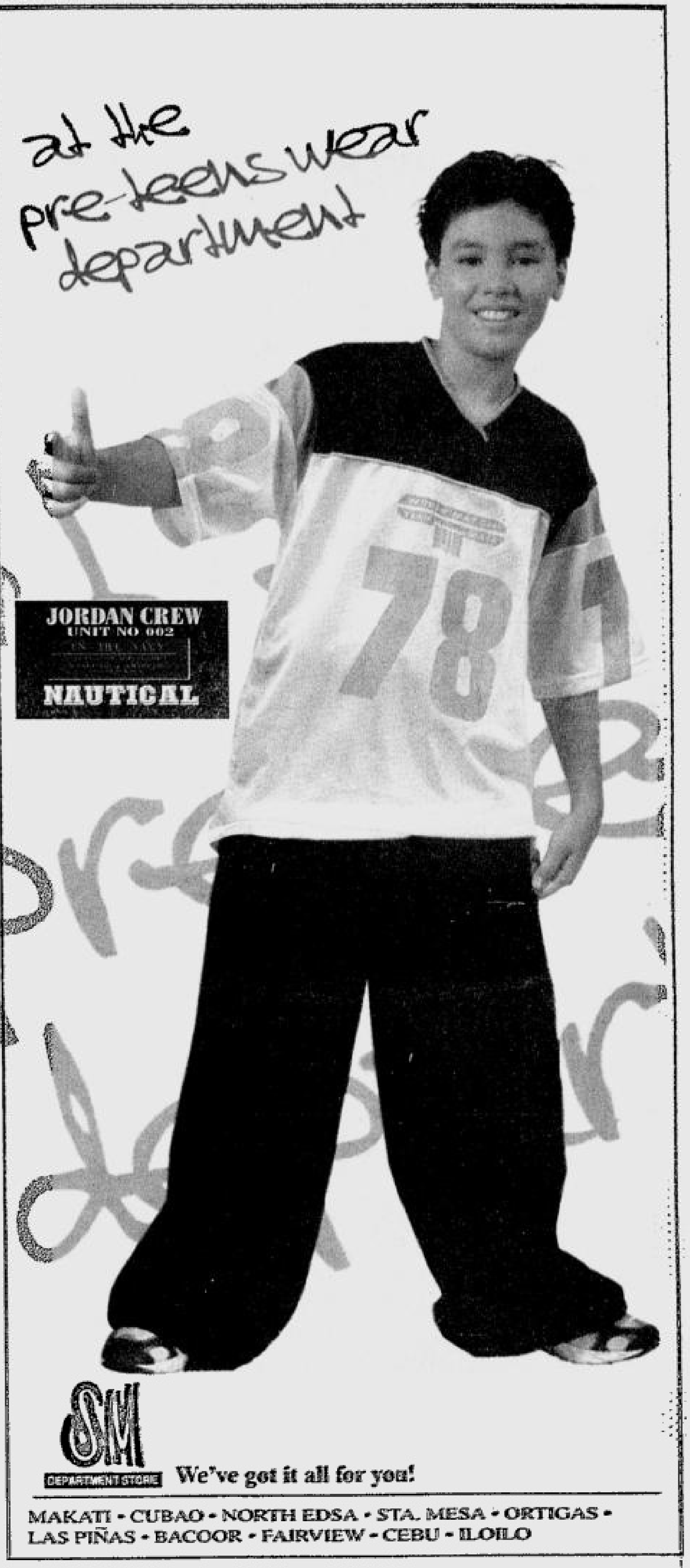
If he has been avoiding you for quite some time and you know that you just can't go and confront him, maybe you can shift the balance in this odd relationship by making him look bad. Start greeting him every day, especially in front of other people. Just be casual in greeting—nothing too obvious that would make him think you're up to something. If he doesn't greet you back, act a little surprised. Come to think of it, you don't have to act surprised, since you really don't know why he has been acting that way. And people would notice his attitude, which could lead him to rethink about the way he has been treating you.

He might change a little, then, and become more approachable. But if he still acts the same way after some time, then you would have enough reason to confront him.

Of course, everything has to be done subtly so as to keep the situation as private as possible. Try not to bring your friends or his friends into the issue because that might make things a little messier. It would also be helpful to think back and try to remember if you really have done him anything wrong in the past. Be honest with him, don't be too on-the-offensive when you finally talk to him and let him know that you're willing to listen to what he has to say.

Good luck.

SEP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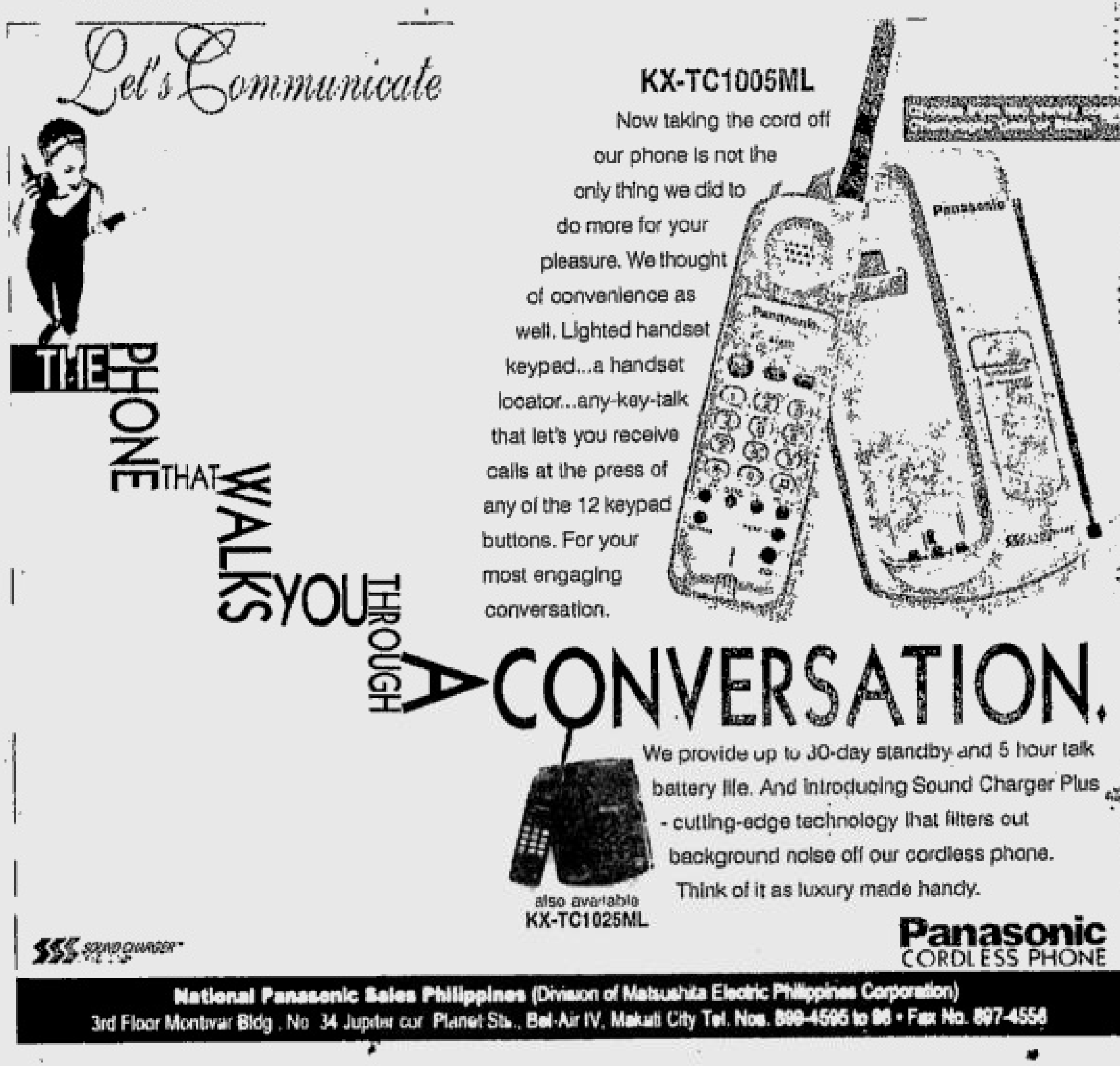
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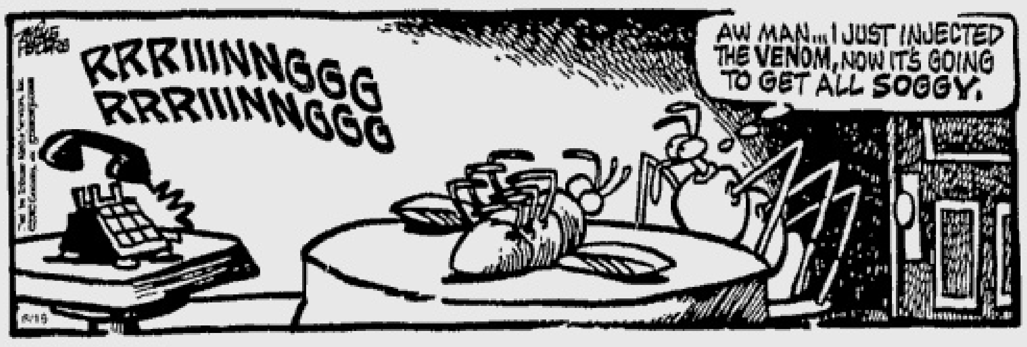
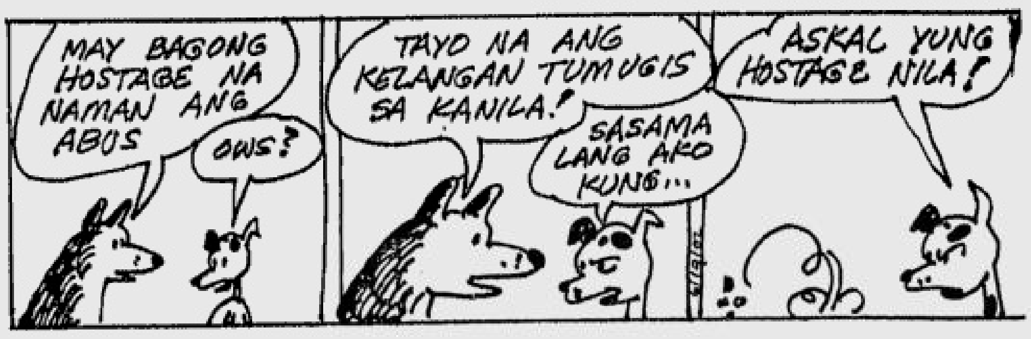
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


RRRIIINNGGG
RRRIIINNGGG
AW MAN... I JUST INJECTED THE VENOM, NOW IT'S GOING TO GET ALL SOGGY.
6-19

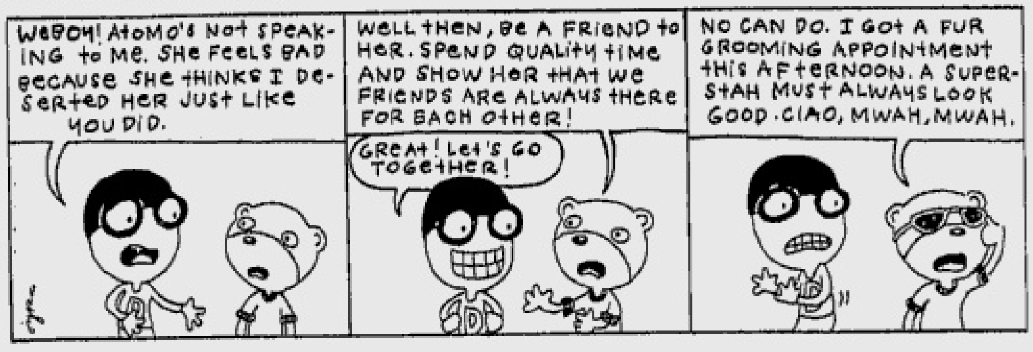
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAY BAGONG HOSTAGE NA NAMAN ANG ABUS
OWS?
TAYO NA ANG KELANGAN TUMUGIS SA KANILA!
SASAMA LANG AKO KUNG...
ASKAL YUNG HOSTAGE NILA!

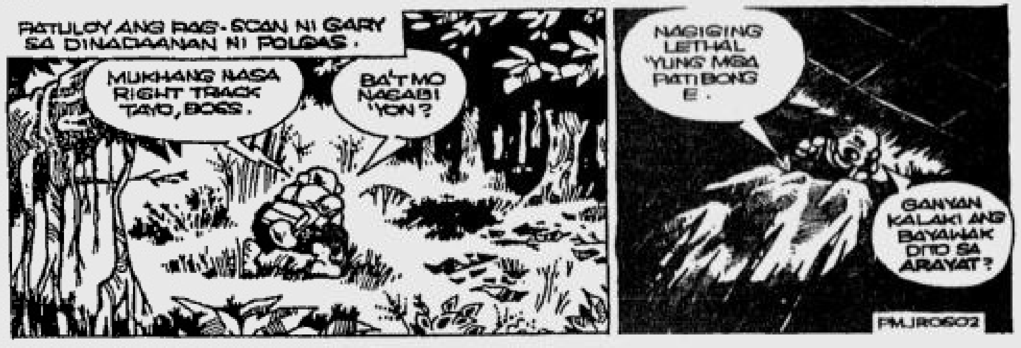
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


WEBOY! ATOMO'S NOT SPEAKING TO ME. SHE FEELS BAD BECAUSE SHE THINKS I DESERTED HER JUST LIKE YOU DID.
WELL THEN, BE A FRIEND TO HER. SPEND QUALITY TIME AND SHOW HER THAT WE FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS THERE FOR EACH OTHER!
GREAT! LET'S GO TOGETHER!
NO CAN DO. I GOT A FUR GROOMING APPOINTMENT THIS AFTERNOON. A SUPERSTAH MUST ALWAYS LOOK GOOD. CIAO, MWAH, MWAH.

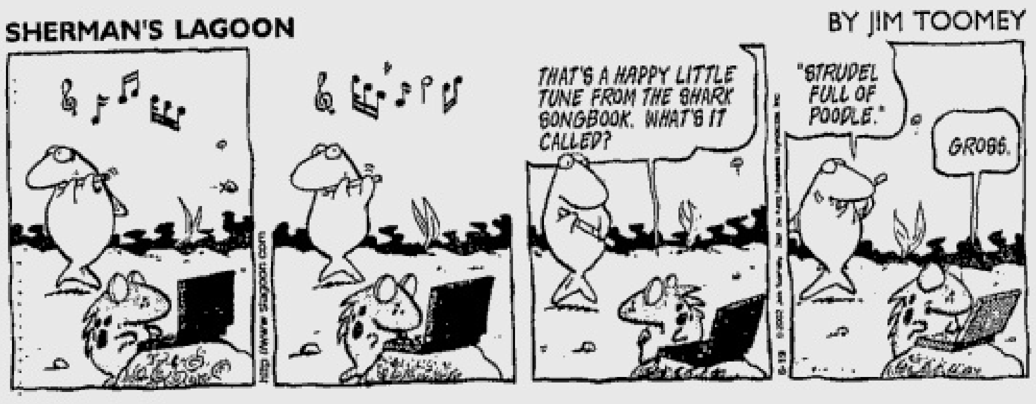
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PATULOY ANG PAG-SCAN NI GARY SA DINADAANAN NI POLGAS.
MUKHANG NASA RIGHT TRACK TAYO, BOSS.
BA'T MO NASABI 'YON?
NAGIGING LETHAL 'YUNG MGA PATIBONG E.
GANYAN KALAKI ANG BAYAWAK DITO SA ARAYAT?
PMJR0602

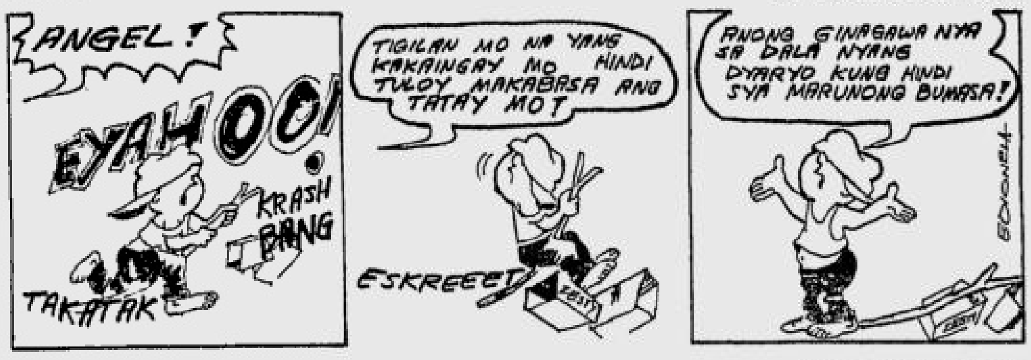
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


THAT'S A HAPPY LITTLE TUNE FROM THE SHARK SONGBOOK. WHAT'S IT CALLED?
"STRUDEL FULL OF POODLE."
GROSS.

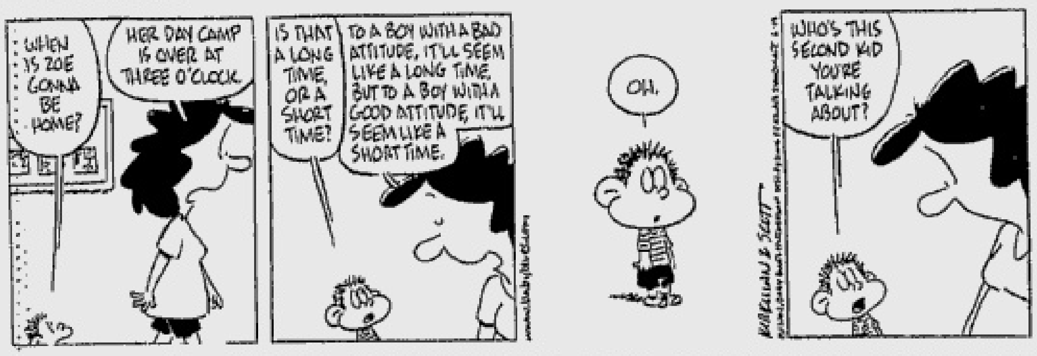
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANGEL!
EYAHOO!
KRASH
BANG
TAKATAK
TIGILAN MO NA YANG KAKAINGAY MO HINDI TULOY MAKABASA ANG TATAY MO!
ESKREEET
ANONG GINAGAWA NYA SA DALA NYANG DYARYO KUNG HINDI SYA MARUNONG BUMASA?!
EDIONELA

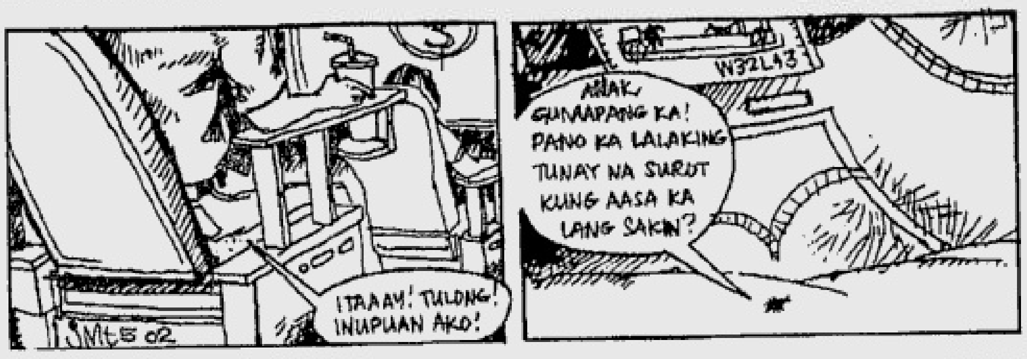
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHEN IS ZOE GONNA BE HOME?
HER DAY CAMP IS OVER AT THREE O'CLOCK.
IS THAT A LONG TIME, OR A SHORT TIME?
TO A BOY WITH A BAD ATTITUDE, IT'LL SEEM LIKE A LONG TIME, BUT TO A BOY WITH A GOOD ATTITUDE, IT'LL SEEM LIKE A SHORT TIME.
OH.
WHO'S THIS SECOND KID YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ITAAAY! TULONG! INUPUAN AKO!
W32L43
ANAK, GUMAPANG KA! PANO KA LALAKING TUNAY NA SUROT KUNG AASA KA LANG SAKIN?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kathleen Turner, Paula Abdul, Guy Lombardo, Gena Rowlands

Happy Birthday: Greater use of technology will lead to a better position this year. Get out and participate in social activities that challenge the mind. You will have more financial responsibility but if you work hard it won't be an issue. Problems dealing with other people's money or possessions will crop up. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 35, 44, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Situations will not be as they appear. A problem within a personal relationship is evident. Patience will be required; think before you speak.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Although someone may try to make you look bad, stick to the straight and narrow. Rewards are coming your way if you are professional and patient.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Now is the time to update your look and create a new you. Take a look at the latest trends and see if there is anything you relate to. Add your own twist.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you are close to will not understand you today. Let them do as they please while you follow your own path. Do something that will take your mind off this frustrating day.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be entertaining and very popular today. Travel and romance will go hand-in-hand. You will be in the mood for physical activities and extravagant entertainment.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your efforts into work, money and health issues. If you sit back and fret about things instead of doing something you will feel defeated. Make the decisions necessary to forge ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be prepared to deal with emotional matters. Keep in mind that the situation you are facing won't go away by itself. You may have compromised in the past but it is time to set your standards and stick to them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Now is the time to check your investments and make some adjustments. You can find ways to turn your life around by getting involved in joint ventures. Partnerships will turn out better than you thought.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): If you are single, don't hesitate to accept a blind date. You'll discover that one of your friends knows you better than you thought. Plan for time together if you are in a relationship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll have some brilliant moneymaking ideas. Don't be afraid to invest in yourself. You can start your own business or share your plans with someone who might be interested in becoming your partner.

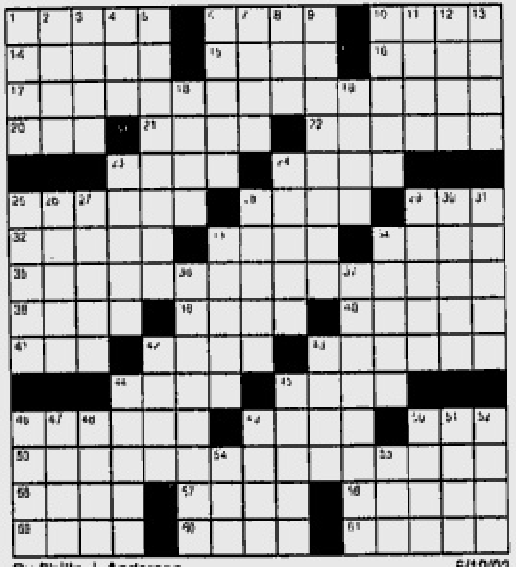
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be in an adventurous mood. Travel or just getting away from the everyday routine will do you a world of good. Find something to get involved in that stimulates your mind.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): It would be a good move to put your cash in a safe place. Don't let an acquaintance talk you into an investment that may not be all it's drummed up to be.

Birthday Baby: You will be generous and will work hard to keep your relationships harmonious throughout your life. You will always try to find amiable solutions for any existing problem you face. You will be popular for your creative abilities.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Philip J. Anderson
Portland, OR

6/19/02

ACROSS
1 First Vice President
6 Coarse seaweed
10 Subdivision division
14 Chihuahua tether
15 Arabian prince
16 Drudgery
17 Not so novel novel?
20 Pay finisher?
21 Unit of capacity
22 L'chaim and prosit
23 Wise birds?
24 Annoying one
25 Gaucho's plains
28 Highway subdivision
29 Tail wiggle
32 Muncher
33 Billions of years
34 Gilbert of "Roseanne"
35 False persona
38 Spread slowly
39 Taj Mahal site
40 Studio stand
41 Notable time
42 "A Death in the Family" author
43 Hard-shelled reptile
44 Moderate
45 Employment
46 Esoteric
49 Nautical starter?
50 Mineral springs
53 Funny money
56 Beanery sign
57 Unit of length
58 Greek colony
59 Hook's underling
60 Self images
61 Parakeet enclosures

DOWN
1 Dog food brand
2 Secluded valley
3 Honor student's grades?
4 NYC arena
5 Boring mollusk
6 "Growing Pains" co-star
7 Give off
8 Designer Claiborne
9 False front
10 Ready for the pitch
11 Lovebirds' words?
12 Run wild
13 Wapitis
18 Feels poorly
19 Medication portion
23 Outdo
24 Chinese gift
25 Tenancy period
26 Intense beam
27 Perplexed
28 French river
29 Bodice
30 Soviet collective
31 Singer Crystal
33 Advanced gradually
34 Bare
36 Nickname for a scout
37 Overanxious
42 Questionable contraction?
43 Singer Amos
44 Personage
45 Plucks plant pests
46 Hot pair in poker
47 Wander
48 Kittenish
49 Frizzy do
50 Warble
51 Ballet bend
52 Melodramatic exclamation
54 Old cloth
55 Squeeze snake

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

D	I	P	S	■	S	O	B	S	■	C	L	A	Y	S
I	N	R	E	■	A	R	E	A	■	A	E	R	I	E
S	H	E	A	■	T	E	A	K	■	T	A	M	P	A
B	A	L	L	B	E	A	R	I	N	G	S	■	■	■
A	L	I	■	R	E	D	D	■	O	U	T	R	A	N
R	E	T	A	I	N	■	■	A	R	T	■	E	V	E
■	■	E	M	S	■	R	A	N	T	■	O	D	O	R
S	T	R	I	K	E	U	P	T	H	E	B	A	N	D
L	E	A	D	■	L	E	E	S	■	T	E	C	■	■
A	C	T	■	A	I	D	■	■	T	H	Y	M	E	S
T	H	E	R	M	O	■	A	A	A	A	■	I	V	E
■	■	■	O	U	T	O	F	C	O	N	T	R	O	L
R	E	G	A	L	■	F	O	C	I	■	R	A	K	E
A	P	A	C	E	■	F	U	R	S	■	A	L	E	C
E	I	G	H	T	■	S	L	A	M	■	P	S	S	T

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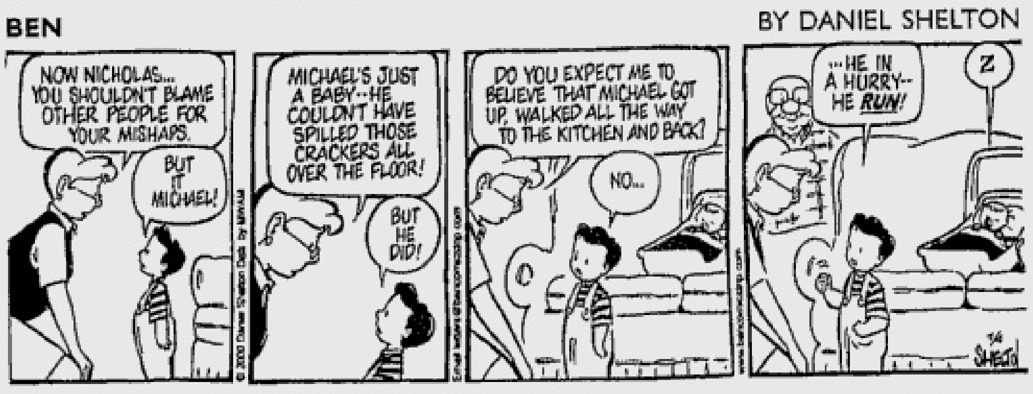
6/18/02

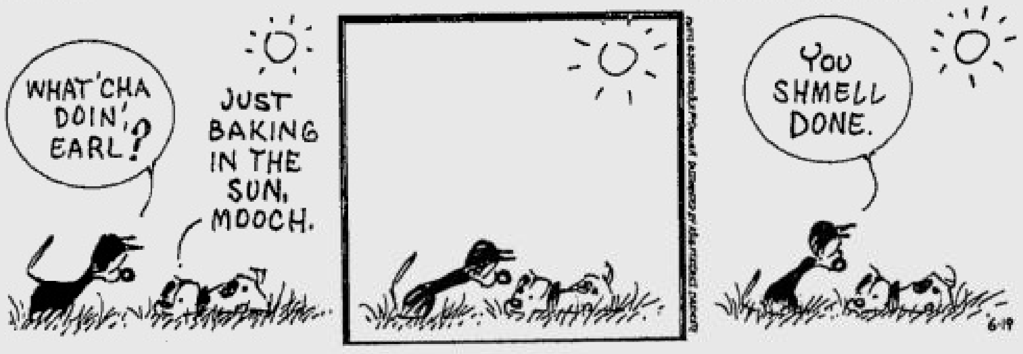
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NOW NICHOLAS... YOU SHOULDN'T BLAME OTHER PEOPLE FOR YOUR MISHAPS.
BUT IT MICHAEL!
MICHAEL'S JUST A BABY--HE COULDN'T HAVE SPILLED THOSE CRACKERS ALL OVER THE FLOOR!
BUT HE DID!
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT MICHAEL GOT UP, WALKED ALL THE WAY TO THE KITCHEN AND BACK?
NO...
...HE IN A HURRY--HE RUN!
Z

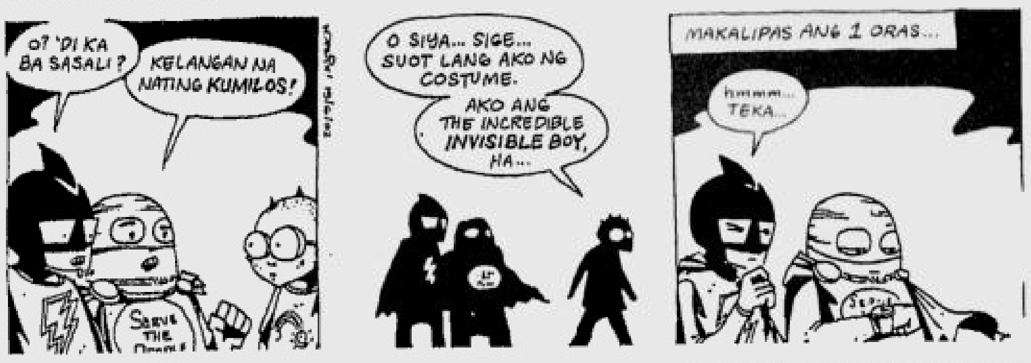
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


WHAT'CHA DOIN', EARL?
JUST BAKING IN THE SUN, MOOCH.
YOU SHMELL DONE.
6-19

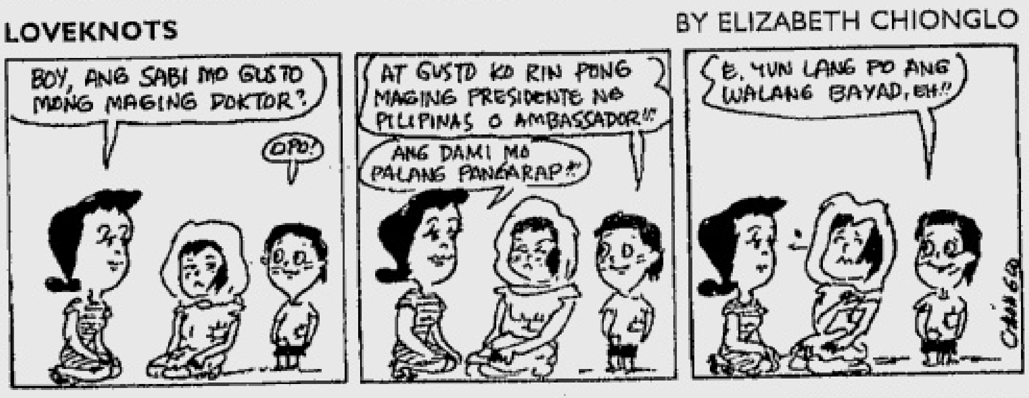
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O? 'DI KA BA SASALI?
KELANGAN NA NATING KUMILOS!
SERVE THE PEOPLE
O SIYA... SIGE... SUOT LANG AKO NG COSTUME.
AKO ANG THE INCREDIBLE INVISIBLE BOY, HA...
MAKALIPAS ANG 1 ORAS...
hmmm... TEKA...

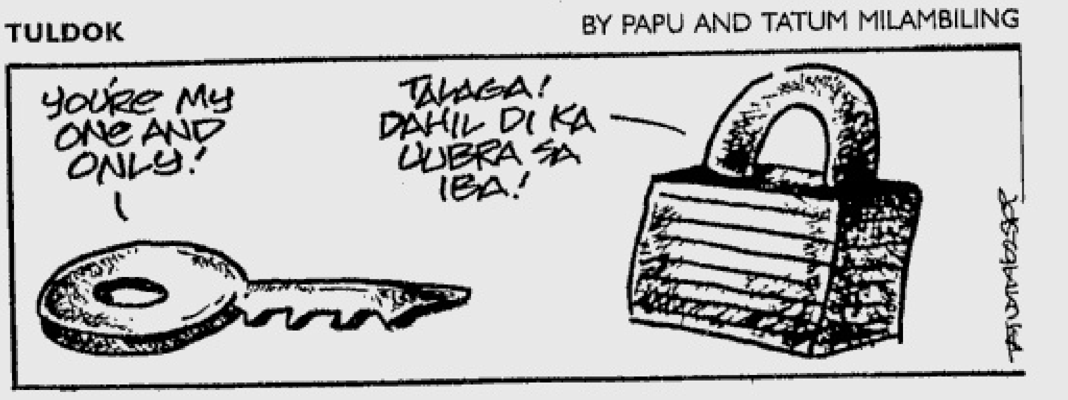
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOY, ANG SABI MO GUSTO MONG MAGING DOKTOR?
OPO!
AT GUSTO KO RIN PONG MAGING PRESIDENTE NG PILIPINAS O AMBASSADOR!!
ANG DAMI MO PALANG PANGARAP!!
E, YUN LANG PO ANG WALANG BAYAD, EH!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


YOU'RE MY ONE AND ONLY!
TALAGA! DAHIL DI KA UUBRA SA IBA!

Divided by the rain

From page C4

I really like the rain. Magnificent pouring of water from the sky. Plus the rain shows how powerful the Lord is. I believe there's nothing in nature that can bring us hate so I thank God for everything.—**Zyra Mae Ordoño, 15, United Montessorean School**

RAIN HATERS

I hate it when the rain, because of selfish and irresponsible people, brings in floods that take away hundreds of lives.—**Prinze Christian, 22, not selfish and irresponsible**

Whenever it rains I am reminded of my ex named Rain who crushed my heart and made me cry a river.—**Jigs, 26, recovering**

All special occasions are threatened. Personally, some of my birthdays were disastrous because of the rain. I hope my wedding's spared.—**Florabella, 24**

Mahirap magpatuyo ng labada, kulob tuloy minsan.—**Gloria, 36, *labandera* (not kidding)**

Dry skin, chapped lips.—**Katreena, 14, stocks up on Jergens and Chapstick**

So gloomy and depressing, you just wanna stay home and do nothing.—**Whitney, 14, *balikbayan***

It reminds me of my pet white mouse (who looked like Pia Guanio, who looks like Stuart Little) who died because I left the cage outside and he wasn't able to withstand the cold.—**Lester, 17, likes Ms Guanio**

Frizzy hair.—**Marie Yu, 21, suffers from bad hair life**

Maputik!—**Giovanni, 22**

Yuck *magdala ng payong.*—**Bebang, 19, St. Scholastica**

Traffic is the worst.—**John Jacob, 23, car-less**

Hirap pumasok. Dyahe.—**Tristan, 18, *'di pa pumapasok kahit may pasok na***

I hate the rain when it comes at a wrong time. Like when you're about to go out and you're all dressed up and then it falls...hard! Talk about bad trip!—**Pacita, 15, Emmanuel Christian School**

The rain can be so romantic but when you're single, it's an annoying presence that makes you feel bad about your love life.—**Roy, 13, still single**

It ruins my hair and that's really bad because I spend hours doing my hair.—**Pipong, 19, once used *pomada***

Floods. I woke up one morning and everything was floating! That was terribly traumatic we instantly had the drainage fixed.—**My Beltran, 28, not traumatized anymore**

I hate the rain because it hides my impressive figure. I can't wear my flattering tops and instead have to be covered with jackets and sweatshirts.—**Dian, 18, will miss summer**

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com

Here *comes . . .*

From page C4

to find me standing there, grinning at him. And there we stood for quite some time, two grinning idiots oblivious to the world.

I'm turning 20 in three days. It's going to rain then. It's a tradition—my birthday is never complete without the rain.

But he's leaving, you know. His parents want him to move to the other side of the world. When the paperwork is complete, he's going away and I won't see him for at least two years. What if our feelings change during that time? Two years is a long time even if he told me he'd wait forever.

In three days, I won't be a teenager anymore. My days of throwing tantrums are over. I can't even be full of angst anymore. I won't have teenage troubles to blame anymore. I'd become just another person with an attitude problem.

This could be the last birthday I would get to spend with him. It feels strange, almost surreal. I think I'll stand outside my door this Saturday and wait for the rain to come.

E-mail the author at omnifartent@hotmail.com.

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Centermall Stage, UGF

June 22
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Activity Center

infocom
Solve the Scooby Doo Mystery Contest

June 18-20
SM Megamall
Atrium, Mega A

June 25-27
SM City North Edsa
Entertainment Plaza, LGF

July 2-5
SM City Fairview
Activity Center, LGF

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SM Southmall
Centermall Stage, UGF

July 15-19
SM City Manila
Entertainment Plaza, 5/F

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WAVE
89.1
YOUR LIFESTYLE, YOUR MUSIC.

Better than watching rainwater collect in a puddle

Here are a few suggestions on what you can try doing on an unexpectedly rainy day

By Rameses de Jesus
2bU! Correspondent

IN A FEW weeks expect to start getting a daily dose of that completely worn out and almost useless one-liner from weather forecasters: "Expect isolated rain showers and thunderstorms." This advice may be so safe for them but so vague to you that most likely, you will still be caught without an umbrella when you need one, or carrying a jacket for days without ever using it.

But the rainy season has its own advantages. You can enter a classroom half an hour late and not be reprimanded, or, you may even get luckier and end up with your classes cancelled for days. You also get an excuse to share an umbrella with a looker, jog outdoors without dehydrating as fast or as badly as during the dry months, and wear slightly-too-warm-but-trendy clothes.

As we enter the second half of the year, we also enter the second of our two seasons—the rainy or wet one. I was explaining to a foreigner friend why storms in the Philippines are named after women. I talked of unpredictable moods and changing minds. She said that she could "totally understand."

Indeed, the bad weather could really catch you off guard and ruin your plans for the day. The free-spirited delight in it, but others would probably start singing Missy Elliot's version of "I Can't Stand the Rain." It is always a possibility that the rain would leave you stuck somewhere (you'd wish it was home) and nothing you do could change the situation. Such a situation doesn't have to be so bad or boring, though. Here are a few suggestions on what you can try doing on an unexpectedly rainy day:

◆ Indulge your artistic bent.

Writers often say there's something poetic when the sky weeps. A rainy day may be conducive for cultivating your artistic seed by writing a poem or a story, painting, or playing a musical instrument. It might be the time to discover some hidden talent or to enhance what you know you already have.

◆ Catch up on your reading.

If you've put off reading some stuff, this may be the time for you to settle on a lounge chair, sip a warm cup of coffee, and bury your nose in some books. There are too many good titles and authors you can't afford to pass up. Wouldn't it be nice to find out before everyone does what happens with the LOTR (Lord of the Rings) trilogy until the Return of the King?

◆ Catch up on your schoolwork (I'm serious!).

It might just please you (and your parents) to be (academically) productive on an otherwise lazy day. Ace that upcoming exam, or at least keep abreast of school requirements—it can be quite an accomplishment.

◆ Take a musical "trip."

Listen to the CD's that you have so far neglected. You might be surprised to find out some actually sound better with time. Destiny's Child, anyone?

◆ Billiards!

Never mind all those people crowding up the billiard hall. Learn it, play it. 'Nuf said.

◆ Go on a movie marathon.

On a rainy day, it is difficult not to love your movie player. Grab a good stack of discs and get to see the movies you had wanted to catch but never had time to. It wouldn't hurt to review all the episodes of Star Wars on the small screen, would it?

◆ Give in to a food craving.

You'd have lots of time to cook sumptuous soups and bake breads and pastries. Who could resist a really wicked chocolate porridge or a bubbling chicken soup when it is pouring outside? They'll taste better if you learn to make them yourself, adding your personal touch to the recipe.

◆ Stretch a muscle or two.

Don't let the rain stop you from toning up and keeping yourself healthy. How about working your way up the walls of one of those rock-climbing centers? You can also watch a tae-bo video and sweat it out at home.

◆ Go digital.

With more than a hundred software programs, why not try and take a crack at a useful one? You can start with those that will help you prepare better papers and presentations for school, such as Pagemaker, or those that will help you design a website. Who knows, you might even manage to earn extra cash with such knowledge?

◆ Do the (gasp) chores.

Be a good kid. Your family will love you for tidying up that filthy nook you call your room, or for rearranging the living room (for the better, ok?), or just helping out in whatever the family's up to that day. Make it a swell time dusting and polishing.

◆ Go mechanical.

Fix those faulty home devices that have been useless for weeks. Play the role of *siraniko* and tinker with those busted apparatus. Wielding the wrenches and pliers will not only save you expensive service fees, but can also teach you a little skill or two.

◆ Make your own home movie.

Pretend you're that weird guy from American Beauty. It might be great to capture the day's goings-on—children having their first taste of rain, a dramatic scene, people in the house doing what they do best on their free time. You may even try editing your own work "professionally" with a computer.

These are just a few of the things you can do on a rainy day, aside from simply talking on the phone all day and driving your folks crazy. And if all else fails, you can always go back to bed and sleep, or make yourself some hot chocolate and stay glued to the tube. This last one never fails to make a rainy day pass virtually unnoticed.

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Tim Yap

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IBIZA/ p.D2

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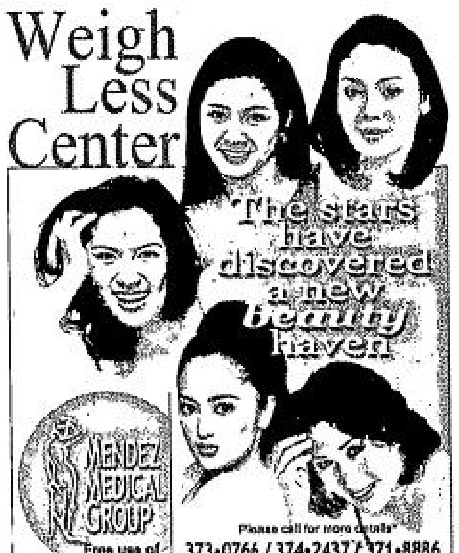
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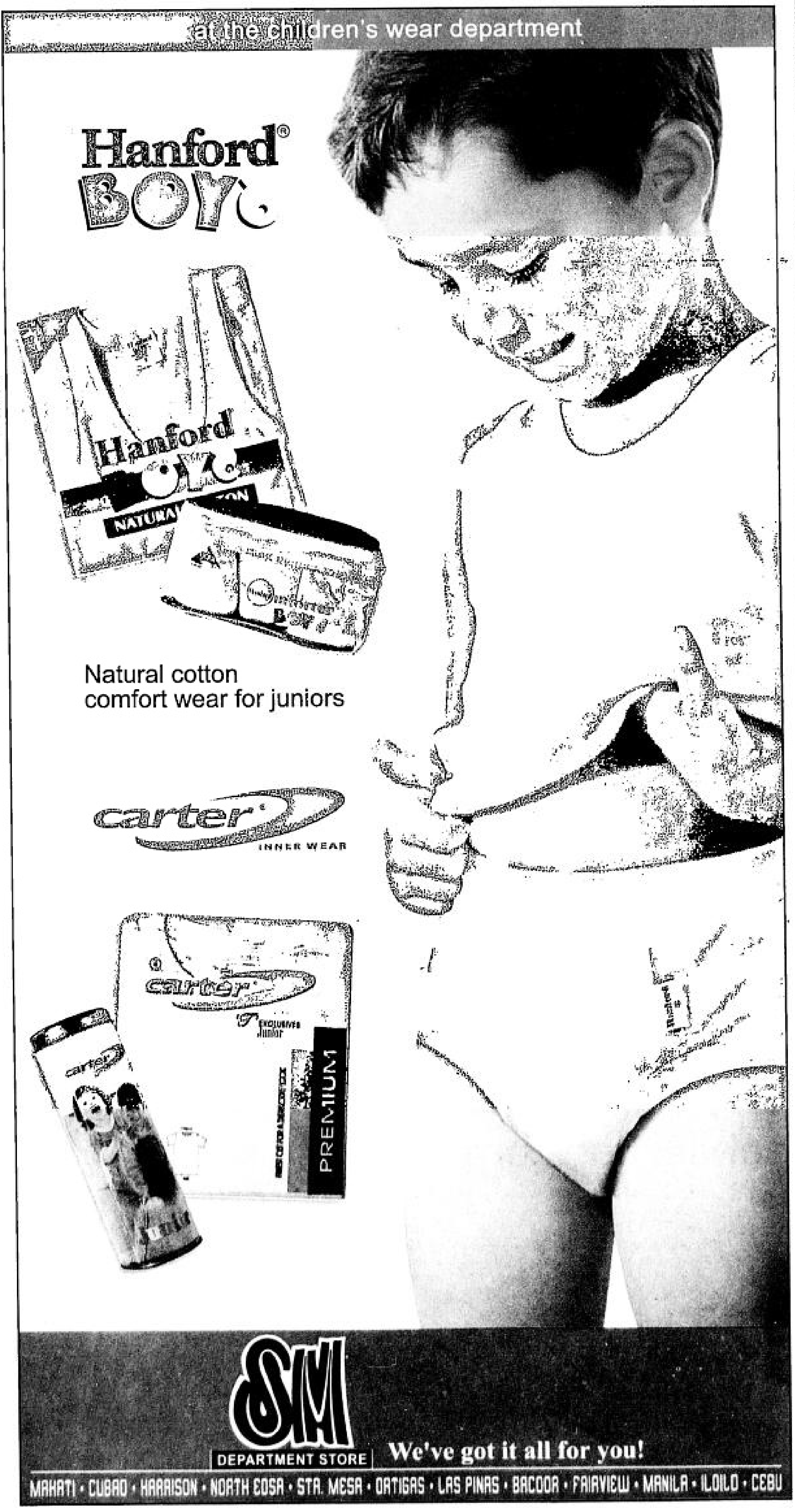
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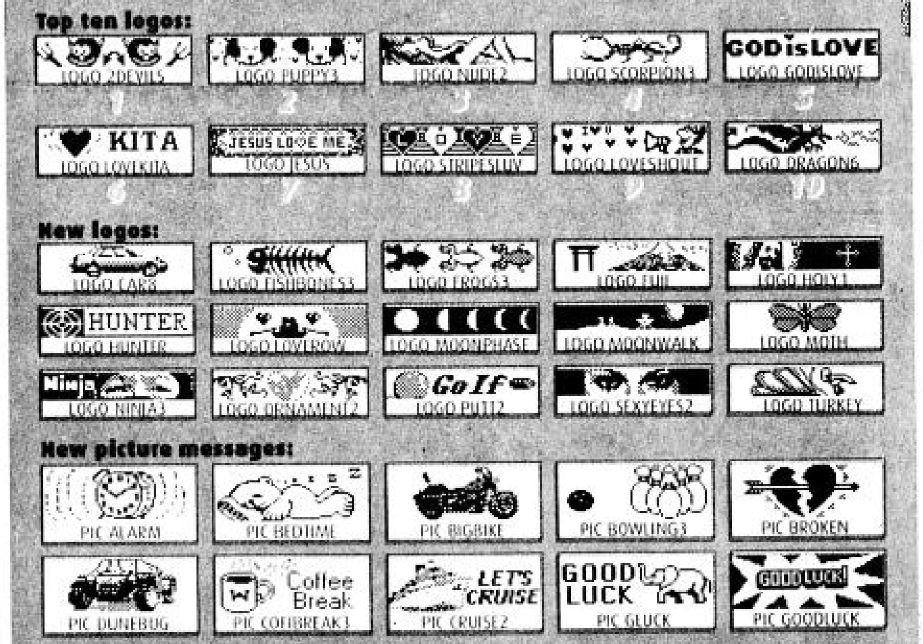

Top ten logos:
LOGO 2DEVILS
1
LOGO PUPPY3
2
LOGO NUDE2
3
LOGO SCORPION3
4
GOD is LOVE
LOGO GODISLOVE
5
KITA
LOGO LOVEKITA
6
JESUS LOVE ME
LOGO JESUS
7
LOGO STRIPESLUV
8
LOGO LOVESHOUT
9
LOGO DRAGON6
10
New logos:
LOGO CAR8
LOGO FISHBONES3
LOGO FROGS3
LOGO FUJI
LOGO HOLY1
HUNTER
LOGO HUNTER
LOGO LOVEROW
LOGO MOONPHASE
LOGO MOONWALK
LOGO MOTH
Ninja
LOGO NINJA3
LOGO ORNAMENT2
Golf
LOGO PUTT2
LOGO SEXYEYES2
LOGO TURKEY
New picture messages:
PIC ALARM
PIC BEDTIME
PIC BIGBIKE
PIC BOWLING3
PIC BROKEN
PIC DUNEBUG
Coffee Break
PIC COFFBREAK1
LET'S CRUISE
PIC CRUISE2
GOOD LUCK
PIC GLUCK
GOOD LUCK!
PIC GOODLUCK

New ring tones:

Wagtail	Zed	TONE WAGTAIL
Widgeon	Zed	TONE WIDGEON
Seagull	Zed	TONE SEAGULL
Teal	Zed	TONE TEAL
Plover	Zed	TONE PLOVER
Arctic Loon	Zed	TONE ARCTIC
Zwarbler	Zed	TONE ZWARBLER
White Tailed Eagle	Zed	TONE EAGLE
Flucktcher	Zed	TONE FLUCK
Song Thrush	Zed	TONE MAVIS

Top ten ring tones:

Dog Bark	Zed	TONE DOGBARK
Superman	Five for Fighting	TONE SUPERMANS
Siren	Zed	TONE SIREN
Like A Rose	A1	TONE LIKEAROSE
Machine Gun Fire	Zed	TONE MACHINE
Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
Kahit Kailan	Southborder	TONE KAHITKLAN
Say My Name	Destiny's Child	TONE SAYMYNAME
Runaway	Del Shannon	TONE RUNAWAY
My Girl	Westlife	TONE MYGIRL

How to get a logo, picture message or ring tone:

1 Type in KEYWORD Ex. LOGO CAR8, PIC ALARM or TONE MAVIS
2 Send to 288.
3 Save upon receiving logo, picture message, or ring tone.

Available exclusively to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscribers for selected Nokia cell phones. ₱15.00 per successful download. To get random keywords of zed logos, type in RANDOMLOGO and send to 288. To get random keywords of zed ring tones, type in RANDOMTONE. For keywords of other zed services, type in KEYS and send to 288.

Who's next to be written off?

Welcome to Lechter High, where students are getting edited like cuss words in a school paper. Because there's a killer out for revenge and only you can stop him. Play Campus Detective, the new text-based game from SIEMENS Mobile and zed. Solve the mystery and pocket some really cool prizes.

zed

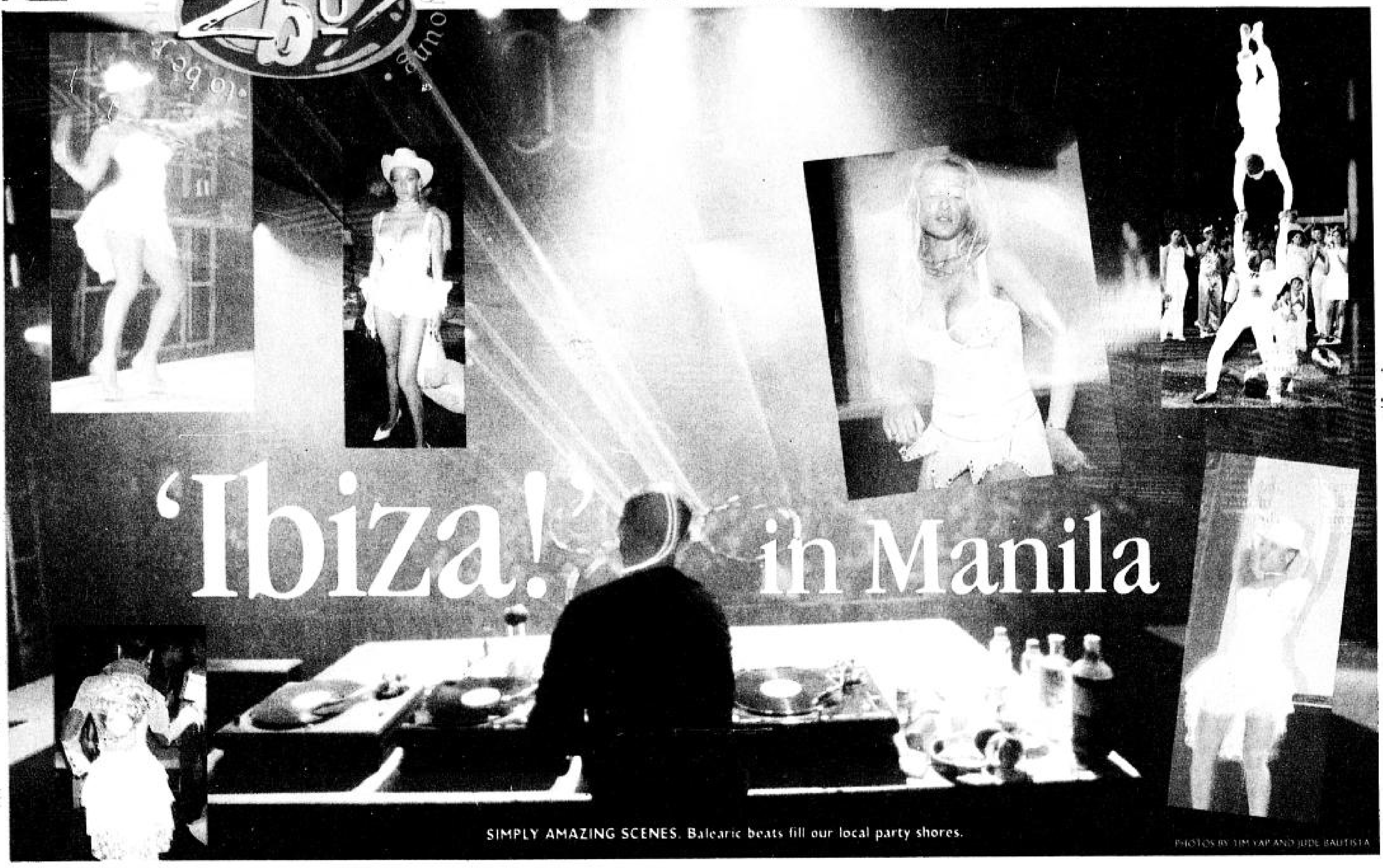
Play Campus Detective and get a chance to win weekly and monthly prizes from SIEMENS Mobile. The High Scorer of the week will win a new SIEMENS C45 mobile phone. While all registered players qualify for the monthly draw where a SIEMENS M[illegible]45 mobile phone is at stake. This contest runs from May 18 to August 18, 2002.

For a complete list of Campus Detective commands, type in CD CMD and send to 288. For more instructions for the game, type in CD HELP and send to 288.

SIEMENS Mobile

How to join zed Campus Detective:

1 To register, type CD REG <name/address/sex/bday(mmddyy)>
2 Send to 288.
3 Await your bonus question and start playing.



'Ibiza!' in Manila

SIMPLY AMAZING SCENES. Balearic beats fill our local party shores.

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP AND JUDE BAUTISTA

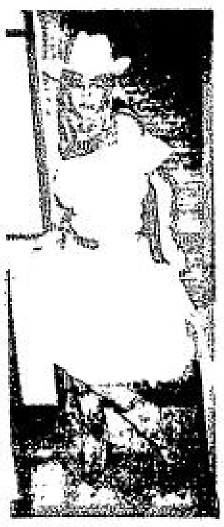
From page D1

Outside, the lines stretched from here to eternity. The world seemed to revolve around the Bonifacio grounds that Tuesday night before the anniversary of the nation's independence. But for the partyphiles who flocked to The Fort that night, it was a feast to mark Smart's reaching the 7-million mark in its savvy subscriber base. They festively announced that to the whole world by throwing massive parties—a white-hot bash and an event they called "Simply Ibiza!"

It has already been two summers when I was last in Ibiza. My favorite club in the Balearic region, aside from the chi-chi Pacha, was Space. This club would open its doors at 6 a.m. for party hardy scenesters and Spanish locals. The last time I was there, I arrived at 9:30 a.m.—and there was a long line! Thanks to a friend I met in another party, who turned out to be the club's promoter, I got past the line and went straight into the packed dance club. The partying would go on until 6 p.m.—talk about hard-core partying.

"Space Ibiza" in Manila was no different. To add to the fun, the Big Fish crew even went as far as bringing in go-go girls from the European party capital. There, the go-go dancers are considered "it" girls, treated like movie stars and dressed up like goddesses. "Before we would wear frou-frou costumes, now it's more fab party gear," said **Cristina**, clad in a leopard print dress with gold bangles.

My evening started early at 7 p.m., when I drove by The Fort to check out the "White Hot" party thrown by ABS-CBN. There, a carousel of boob-tube personalities and models were all over spreading the carnival atmosphere, all clad in the season's most wanted color. I then headed to MTV boss **Francis Lumen**'s lair (he copresented the event), where a reception for the Ibiza girls was about to take place.



DEBORAH does a Shakira.

LATINA *fevah* in Manila!

7 p.m. to 7 a.m.

In between bites of *pritchon* (the Peking duck version of our local *lechon*) and glasses of red wine, the Latina bombshells arrived, causing the room to make a 180-degree turn toward their direction. Cristina, **Deborah** and **Melany** all exuded that Spanish soul, all vampy vixens who looked like they had just been plucked from a telenovela.

Intoxicated by midnight, I rushed to the Tent grounds where everything was on a fever pitch. Partyphiles kept texting each other, namedropping at the door—all with the intention of getting inside the "Space Ibiza" party halls. The setup included a chill-out VIP lounge (superbly executed by **Miguel Rosales**) at the back where **Anton Ramos** massaged the partyphiles with his music.

Inside the house halls, DJ **TC** and **Tanya** of Space warmed up the packed crowd, while the VIPs stayed at the lounge, happy with each other's company as they waited together for Seaman's set. What was special about this party was the fact that it got everybody together. Partyphiles of different generations—urbanites who used to party a lot and the now-generation party kids were all having a grand time dancing to the same groove.

And then he played his funky music. The Ibiza girls shook their booty. The audience was spellbound. After a few minutes of dazed bewilderment, the whole house gyrated to Seaman's beat. Outside, the variety of choice, included a pop concert featuring "Simply Amazing" **Martin Nievera** plus other artists. Before sunrise, I ran to Pravda where the after-party was searing. Partyphiles with surplus energy took the time to chill out. At 7 a.m., I found myself driving home with a big smile on my face.

Looking at it from a personal standpoint, you can truly observe the scene's growth—from those "hard-core-sun-down-to-sun-up parties" to breakfast moments feasting on Cable Car fried rice, to those times when you wake up not knowing where you are and what you took (or who you're with)—it has been one hell of a ride.

PARTYING with Epi Quizon

CEBUANO HUNK IN TOWN. Joe Vince

"IT" party girl Mylene Dizon

HIP chef Robert Spakowski

JUST B. Being Bianca Araneta

BOY WONDER. Robin da Roza

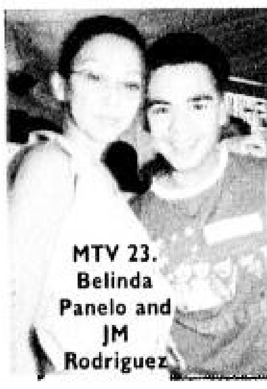
AT THE TENT. Tina Tinio, Dave Seaman, Yaparazzi and Nicole de Castro

SCENESTERS ALL. Chut Curvo, Geni Psinakis, Marcel Crespo and Nafsika Droussou

MOVING ON. Janna Victoria and Dominic Ochoa

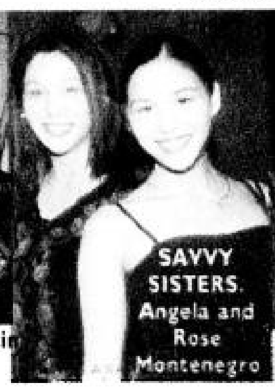
OVERHAULED. Borgy Manotoc and friend Tibbz

SOON-TO-BE lawyer Lucia Santiago with Greg Marcos



MTV 23. Belinda Panelo and JM Rodriguez

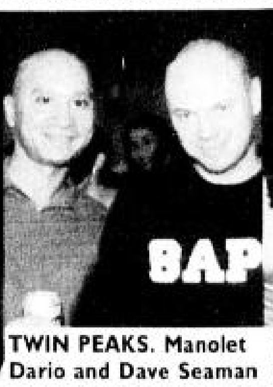
RE-JOYCE. Marvin Agustin and Joyce Jimenez



SAVVY SISTERS. Angela and Rose Montenegro

PRAVDA POWER. Paolo Trillo and Chris Yam

I LIKE! Rod Nepomuceno and Sarah Meier



TWIN PEAKS. Manolet Dario and Dave Seaman

VVIPS. Phoem Baranda and Julie Carceller

AMAZING. Boy Martirez and Martin Nievera

Choosing the best cleanser for combination skin

Make Over 911

Kinny Salas

WHAT is the best cleanser for combination skin? I look around the shops and salesladies keep shoving products for normal-to-oily or normal-to-dry skin formulations into my hands. These products either make my T-zone (forehead, nose and chin area) break out uncontrollably or cause my cheeks to feel tight and itchy and start flaking. Cleansers for normal skin don't harm, but don't help at all either. My skin regimen is so long because I treat each area differently, and I have so many products for them. I am hoping for a cleanser that will solve my problem and streamline my budget in time and money matters.

CONFUSED FACE

In fairness to those salesladies, normal-to-oily and normal-to-dry are subtypes of combination skin. The first being oily T-zone while having normal or balanced skin on the cheeks, and the second being smooth, balanced T-zone while having dry skin on cheeks. Unfortunately, you have what we call "extreme combination" with very oily T-zone and dry to very dry cheeks. Yours is rare and very tricky.

Had this been 15 years ago, I would have had no choice but to advise longer and specialized treatments per area. Well, you are in luck because they actually have the perfect cleansing products for this type. I highly recommend cleansing bars and facial washes which contain AHA (alphahydroxyacids). These are natural exfoliants that dissolve the glue-like substance that holds dead skin cells together, allowing them to be eliminated from our skin's surface. These dead skin cells, when present, clog up pores and breed bacteria responsible for acne and breakouts on oily skin, and causes the tight feeling and dull and uneven texture of dry skin. The result will be that your skin will meet halfway and get the texture of baby skin.

The cleansers I have tried are Teranex AHA cleansing bar (made of glycerin so it washes off easily, leaving no residue to further clog pores) and Neutrogena Pore Refining Cleanser with AHA and BHA. Another product you may also try is L'Oreal Pore Refining. For best results, follow with alcohol-free toners to remove further debris, and before retiring at night, apply an AHA cream such as Godiva Fruit Acid, Neutrogena or L'Oreal Pore Refining Essence. This last step will aid in speeding up the correcting process and maintaining results.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 8974805

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Eurocampus *in* Parañaque promotes *Rizal's ideals*

Composed of a German and a French school, the campus is the first of its kind and is being replicated elsewhere around the world

By Christian V. Esguerra

IN A SPRAWLING, two-hectare campus in Parañaque City, a group of German educators are trying to develop young Jose Rizals among children of mostly European expatriates.

Rizal, whose 141st birth anniversary the nation celebrates today, must have made such a remarkable impression on the Germans when he visited Berlin in 1886 that more than a century later, they are hoping that their students would grow up like the national hero: intelligent and well-rounded like any other Renaissance man Europe had ever produced.

"Rizal was very close to Germany," said Dietrich Schairer, director of the German School located at the Eurocampus in Better Living, Parañaque. "He was one man that every young German would definitely want to emulate."

Germans revered Rizal so much that they erected a statue of him in a small park in Wilhemsfeld, where he had spent three months writing critical portions of his novel "Noli Me Tangere."

The Eurocampus was the first of its kind worldwide. It houses two foreign schools—the German and the French—offering primary and secondary education to around 360 students from more than 30 countries in Europe, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia, including the Philippines. Among the few Filipino students were scions of the Ayalas, according to Schairer.

Like the Wilhemsfeld Park, the German School was also a fitting tribute to Rizal when it was established in Manila in 1980. It then carried the name Jose Rizal School.

Vital

For more than two decades now, Rizal's life and works have remained vital to the school's History and Politics course offered to Grade 8 and 9 students, according to Schairer. Rizal, he said, was a very relevant example of how one man struggled to open the gates of modern thought in a colony like the Philippines. "He is very important as an example of an individual struggle for reform," he said. "In the course of history, many have struggled but Rizal was simply extraordinary."

Schairer, who handles History and Politics, said his students find Rizal's life "dramatic and adventurous," especially when they get to visit his cell at the Fort Bonifacio and other landmarks that pay tribute to Rizal.

Establishing a connection between the students and the Philippines through the discussion of historical events and figures such as Rizal, is among the objectives of the Eurocampus, he said.

But the primary goal of the campus, according to Schairer, is to bring the French and German systems to the Philippines and "make the students feel as if they did not leave their countries at all."

It was also the "deep concern for an internationally recognized education for the children" of French and German expatriates that prompted former Ambassadors Peter Scholz of Germany and Olivier Gaussot of France to push for the establishment of the Eurocampus in 1992, he said.

On a wider perspective, the project seeks to enhance the diplomatic relations among France, Germany, and the Philippines, said Roland Koch, administration manager of the Eurocampus.

Sophisticated

The Parañaque campus boasts of sophisticated laboratory equipment and several facilities for sports and leisure available for students of both the German and French schools. The facilities include an Olympic-size swimming pool, a stadium, a trilingual documentation center, an auditorium, a playground, students' lounge, and video and computer rooms.

The French and the German schools follow the programs set by the French National Center for Distance Education and the German Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, respectively.

Students attend language classes on French, English, German, Spanish, Dutch, Portuguese, Tagalog, and even Chinese, according to Ghislaine Twyman, the school's director.

"We want to widen the horizon of the students especially when it comes to languages," she said. "Here, students don't just learn French and English. They also have to know other languages so they would have an advantage when they return to Europe."

While acceding to the quality and immense popularity of foreign schools using the American system in the country, Schairer said they somehow "lack the broad European perspective," especially in the discussion of world history and politics. "Based on my observations, these schools somehow focus largely on America and hardly relate lessons about the country to the issues and events in other parts of the world," he said.

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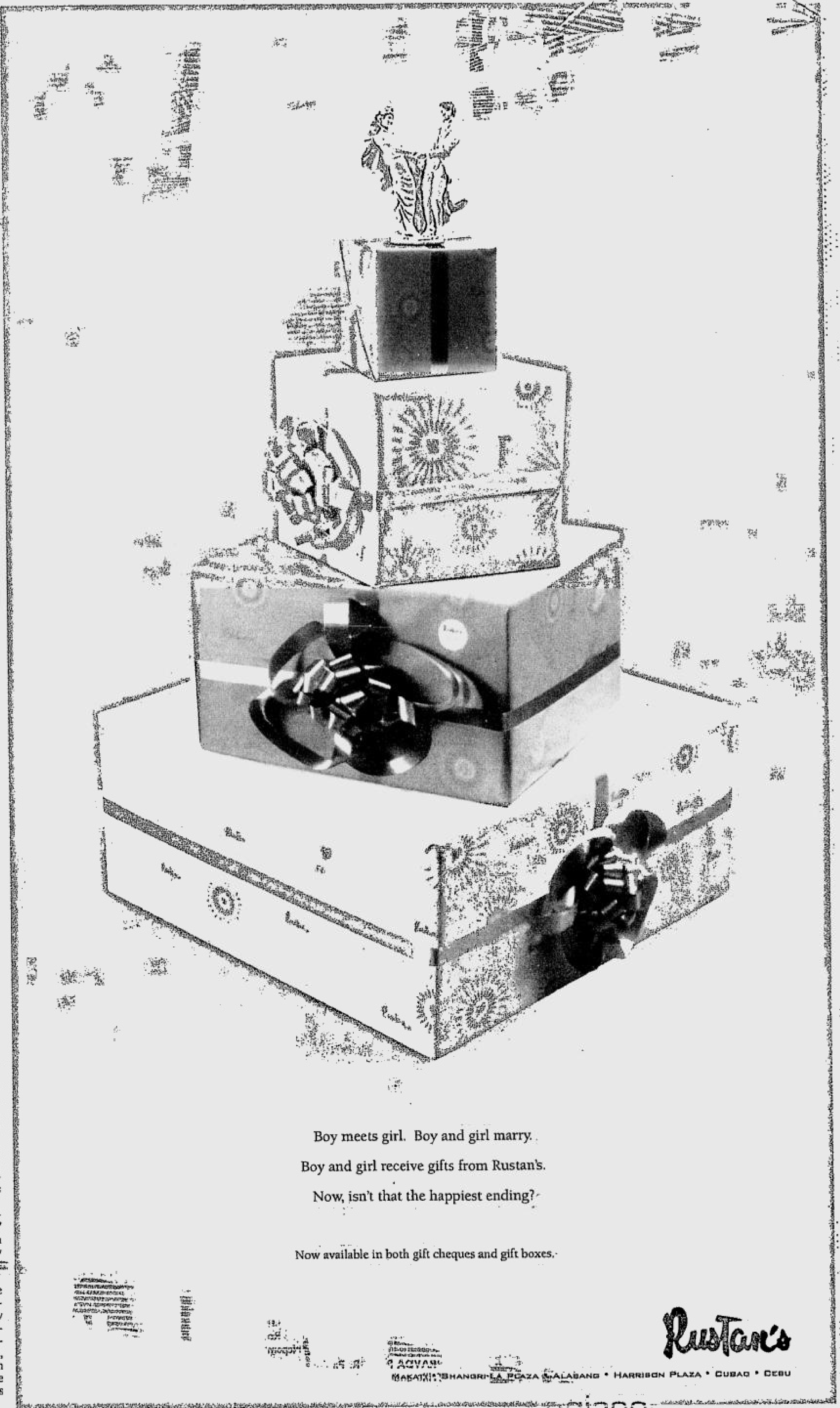

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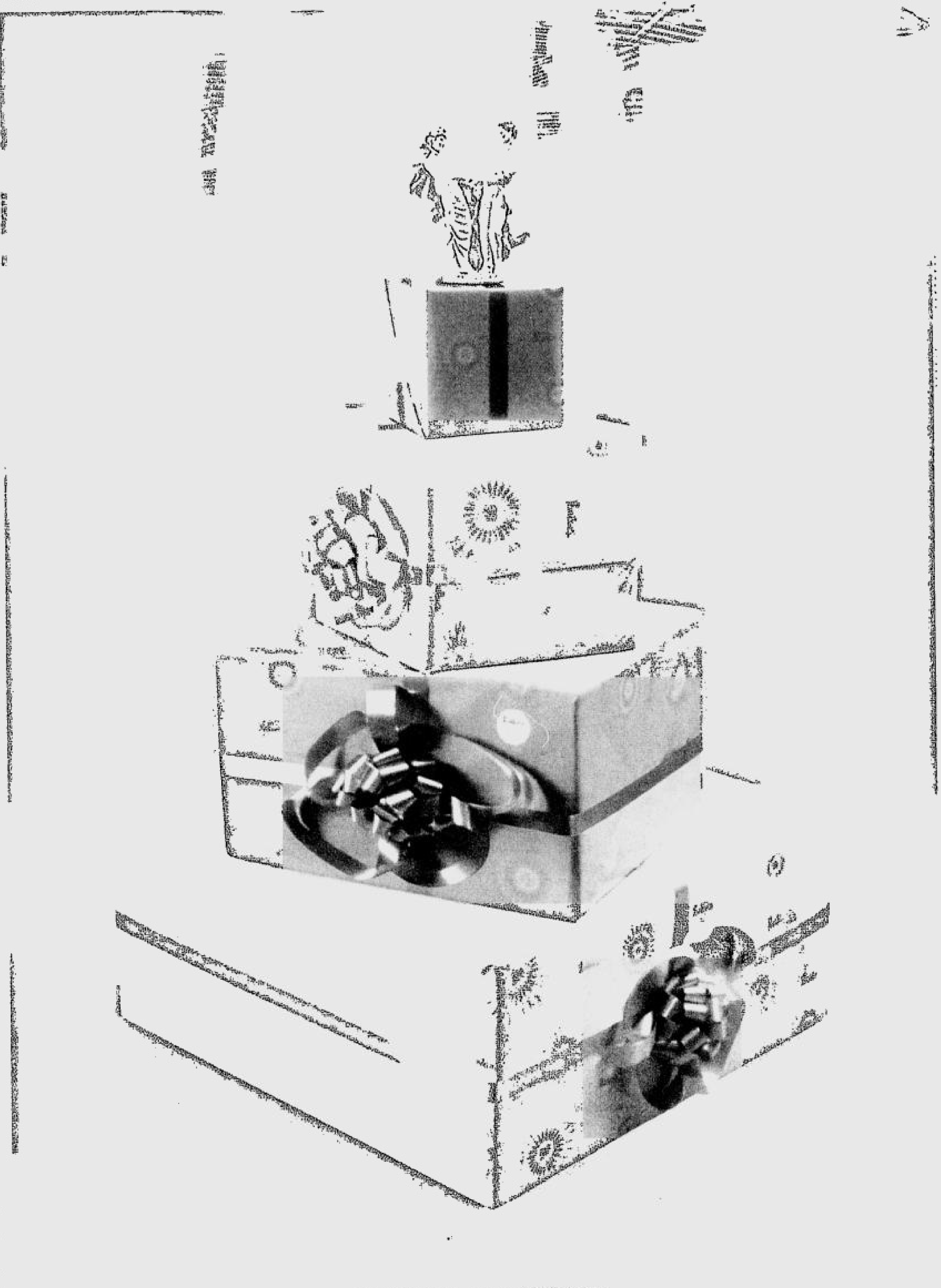

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FETE DELA MUSIQUE 2002

Jazzing and jamming for peace

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

WE'RE crazy about the French. Every year they bring over the best films shown in their side of the world (for a minimum charge of 20 bucks per head!), which undoubtedly prove the fact that subtitles are cool. And, of course, there's that annual get-together of dozens of Filipino bands from different genres, jamming together to spread art and culture in a fun way.

We're talking about the Fete dela Musique.

The music festival started in Paris back in 1982, when the French showcased amateur musicians. The popular feast has become part of French culture. The musical shindig has spread to more than a hundred countries. It thankfully touched ground here in the Philippines in 1994.

This year, fans and music-lovers will be dancing to a whole new beat—"The Call for Peace," a timely issue. El Pueblo in Ortigas Center, Pasig is the lucky venue.

What's to expect this year? Lots of new acts, the same artists we enjoy, a super-important issue to spread, and the same barrel of fun we always get from Fete. 2bU! rounds up a few of the 35 bands that will be advocating peace at this year's Fete.

MAIN STAGE

Venue: Racks (Cynthia Alexander will be opening the event with a rendition of John Lennon's "Imagine")

Brownbeat All-Stars

It's hard to miss a pretty chick with a great voice. Which is why even after her departure from Put3Ska, Skarlet has managed to draw people to listen to her band's ska rhythm, deliciously laced with Latin and swing beats with touches of reggae and jazz. Winning the Katha Award for Best Alternative Performance for "Lampungan," the Brownbeat All-Stars have started touring Metro Manila.

Kapatid

A mix of funk rock, jazz, drum and bass, hip-hop, world, punk hardcore and country—that's what Kapatid's music is made of. Composed of ex-Rivermaya member Nathan Azarcon and ex-P.O.T. Karl Roy, Kapatid promise good music that, in their own words, "will take you in a journey of enlightenment." Rock on.

ROCK

Venue: Former Flavors and Spices

Happy Meals

One of the rookies of the Fete, Happy Meals are yet another Ateneo-grown band, playing rock with a funky twist. Once called Niño and The Good Guys (and even once, Maniac Manok), Happy Meals will be sharing the rock bill with the likes of newcomers Monkey Spank and veterans Razorback. Playing the Fete generates excitement among the band, even though they're only limited to three songs off their EP. (To get a copy of their EP, contact Jorel at 0919 882-0466.)

HAPPY Meals

ALTERNATIVE

Venue: Sidebar (atop Chatteau 1771)

Eraserheads

One of the most influential bands of the 90's, the Eraserheads have gone through more ups and downs than an amusement park roller coaster. But even after the band members embarked on solo careers and the lead singer called it quits, the 'Heads are still standing. "I'm trying not to think about playing at the Fete," new lead singer Kris Gorra-Dancel says. "If I think about it more, I'll just get really, really nervous." She's quick to point out that she likes to check out jazz, since she usually doesn't listen to that kind of music. The Eraserheads hope to have their new album out by the end of the year.

THE ERASERHEADS

Nityalila

Who is Nityalila G. Saulo? She is a vegetarian who plays her own songs. She is a songwriter who grew up following the teachings of the Great Acaryas, a guru. Nityalila is a woman who sings about environmental issues, social problems and the absolute truth. She listens to Indian, folk, country, jazz, world and Broadway music, as well as country and contemporary artists. Check out some healthy alternative music when Niyalila hits the stage.

JAZZ

Venue: San Mig

Buhay

Get a dose of some serious servings of jazz with Buhay. Having formed in 1998 and starting out as a Sunday jazz jam band, Buhay have signed onto Star Records' new Jazz label, and have represented the Philippines in jazz festivals such as the Singapore International Jazz Festival in 2001 and Carl's Sunrise Jazz Festival in Kuala Lumpur.

Wahijuara

It's Afro-Latin laced with a Carribean groove when it comes to this jazz ensemble. Composed of musicians who have studied Latin music in various workshops, Wahijuara's members have played for Mr. Razon and Puro Ritmo regularly, while some are members of popular rock bands and performers in an orchestra. Playing classic Latin music in their own beat, this band lets people hear jazz in a whole new light.

REGGAE

Venue: Tequila Joe's

Brownman Revival

Brownman are composed of 12 talented musicians with one sole thing linking them together: the soul and beat of reggae music. Born in 1994, Brownman Revival have managed to reincarnate the original smooth groove that reggae has to offer—the kind that makes you sway those hips and dance like there's no tomorrow. Hit the reggae circuit when this band gets on stage.

Neighbors

If you had ever been to the now-defunct Club Dredd and Mayric's during the early Club Ska days, you would surely recognize Neighbors. Also on the Standing Room Series bill, Neighbors combine their classical background with ska music. They have also released an independent 12-track album entitled "Angono Ska Explosion," whose "The Clockworks" and "Sounds Sharp" topped the international Top 5 for almost eight weeks on Soundbuzz.com.

SCHEDULE

BANDS and musicians and music, oh my! It's easy to get lost at a venue like El Pueblo when you've got more than 30 bands playing in one night. Not to mention the masses of people running from one place to another, hoping to catch their favorite acts take the stage. Clip this to map out your master plan for the night.

MAIN STAGE
Cynthia Alexander, 9 p.m.
Radio Active Sago Project, 9:30 p.m.
Loguy, 10:30 p.m.
Brown Beat All-Stars, 11 p.m.
Kapatid, 12 a.m.
Spy, 12:30 a.m.
Third World Project, 1:30 a.m.
Pinikpikan, 2 a.m.

ROCK
Greyhoundz, 9:30 p.m.
Monkey Spank, 10 p.m.
Itchyworms!, 10:20 p.m.
Pan, 10:40 p.m.
Razorback, 11:15 p.m.
Spectrum, 12 a.m.
Battery, 12:20 a.m.
Happy Meals, 12:40 a.m.
Dicta License, 1 a.m.
Sandwich, 1:30 a.m.
ChicoSci, 2:10 a.m.

HALO-HALO
Bo Razon, 9:30 p.m.
Blue Rats, 10:30 p.m.
Ugoy Ugoy, 12 a.m.
Parliament Sydicate, 1 a.m.
The Jerks, 2 a.m.

JAZZ
Wdouji, 9:30 p.m.
Mother Earth, 10:30 p.m.
JRCOBB, 11:30 p.m.
Wahijuwara, 12:30 a.m.
Buhay, 1:30 a.m.

REGGAE
Brownman Revival, 9:30 p.m.
Hemp Republic, 10:45 p.m.
Neighbors, 11:30 p.m.
Pinoy Stories, 12:30 a.m.
Bing!, 1:30 a.m.

ALTERNATIVE
Imago, 9:30 p.m.
Nityalila, 10:30 p.m.
Murder of Crows, 10:50 p.m.
Eraserheads, 11:30 p.m.
Mojofly, 12:15 a.m.
Barbie's Cradle, 1 a.m.
Color It Red, 2 a.m.

HIP HOP
Chill, etc., 12:30-2:30 a.m.

DRUM VIL
Makiling Ensemble, 9:15, 10:15, 11:00 p.m., 12:00 a.m.

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SM Southmall, Las Piñas
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(082) 226-2305
(082) 224-0361

CAINTA:
3rd Level, Phase 3,
Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall
681-7339
681-5310

SM MEGAMALL:
5/F Bldg. 2, SM Megamall
634-3310
634-3311

SM BACOOR:
Lower G/F, SM Bacoor
(046) 502-3568
(046) 571-1536

SM FAIRVIEW:
Lower G/F, SM Fairview
419-7549
419-7552

LAS PIÑAS:
Stop Ball, Pamplona Park,
Zapote Road, Las Piñas City
872-2341 / 873-1326

LIPA:
2/F Fiesta World Mall,
Marauoy, Lipa City
(043) 404-1726
(043) 404-1727

PAMPANGA:
Queensland Commercial Plaza,
Maligaya Village, San Fernando,
Pampanga
(045) 961-1876
(045) 961-1887

ZAMBOANGA:
Nuñez St., Zamboanga City
(062) 992-3002
(062) 992-6388 to 89

CAINTA:
G/F Phase 2 Sta Lucia East Mall
646-0450 / 645-6766

MAKATI:
2/F Gold Crest Bldg.,
Makati Commercial Complex
812-8552 / 817-2826

BINONDO:
905 State Investment Center
Juan Luna St., Binondo, Manila
242-0621 / 242-2631

ANGELES:
2/F BPI Arcade, Nepomart,
Angeles City
(045) 887-0391 / (045) 323-5952

TARLAC:
Unit 253, 2/F, Anita Bldg. Zamora St.,
San Roque, Tarlac City
(045) 982-5289 / (045) 800-0541

HOTLINE: 410-7097

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